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[WITH A SUPPLEMENT, SIXPENCE.]

READY FOR THE CONFLICT.

It seems to have puzzled various members of the British Legislature to decide whether we were actually at peace or at war with Russia. The manning of splendid fleets, the embarkation of regiments, and the voting of increased Army and Navy Estimates, were, it is true, highly suggestive of a state of war. But then it was asked how can we be at war unless there have been a formal declaration of it? Lord John Russell and Lord Clarendon severally did their best to explain to these dubiously-minded men the true state of the case, and how it was that certain formalities due to the dignity of the Sultan and to his estimation among his own countrymen, had to be gone through before war could be officially declared on his behalf by his faithful allies. Practically we are at war; theoretically the Emperor of Russia has yet a few days before him, in which he may indulge the notion that he is at peace with all the world, except with Turkey. Messengers were despatched on Monday morning, from London and Paris, bearing to the Czar the ultimatum of those powers, to the effect, that if he do not by the 30th April next ensuing, evacuate the Danubian Principalities, they will immediately resort to force to compel him to do so. The haughty refusal of the Czar is easy to anticipate, and will, in all probability, reach London and Paris about the 21st inst. Before that day the magnificent Baltic fleets of Great Britain and France will be in readiness to try their strength with Russia before Cronstadt; and by the same day Sebastopol will, doubtless, be invested both by sea and land.

In the meantime all will proceed *selon les règles*. If not striking heavy blows against the enemy, we shall be ready for him at all points on a moment's notice. There are many calamities that are far worse in the anticipation than in the reality. The pangs which a man has never suffered, but of which

he has heard much from the reports of others, he is apt to exaggerate. Nations and generations born and nurtured in peace, that know nothing of war but the burdens which it has entailed upon them, and the miseries which it inflicted upon their forefathers, cannot but look with dread upon its renewal in their time and in their own persons. But these feelings seldom last beyond the hour when war is known to be inevitable. The vague dread of the unseen giant is far more terrible to bear than the actual presence of the monster. It is the uncertainty that causes more than half the mischief. A few months ago, when there seemed a reasonable hope that, by a few mutual concessions and sacrifices, the peace of the world might be preserved, there was not a state in Europe, except Russia, in which war was not considered as the direst of afflictions. But at the present moment, when all uncertainty is at an end, and when the nations of Europe know that there is a sharp conflict before them, a feeling of positive satisfaction has succeeded to that of alarm. Now that there is to be no more "pottering" between Ambassadors, and Consuls, and that we are to have a fair stand-up fight with the common enemy, the world seems to be relieved of a load. The anxiety is no longer to prevent war, but to go into it manfully, and fight it out heroically. There is not a shadow of discouragement in the counsels of the Allies; there is not the remotest faint-heartedness on the part of the people. Enthusiasm is, in France and England, at its fever-height. All the generous sentiments of humanity have been aroused against the wrong-doer. Old Europe feels herself youthful and vigorous, under the strong stimulus of her outraged sense of honour; and, such is her present temper, as represented by her two foremost nations, that the prevention of Russian encroachment is no longer sufficient. It is felt that, not only must we teach the great criminal his duty to the present, but we must punish him for the past, and restrain him for the future.

England enters upon her task with a cheerful spirit. Certainly, all the circumstances of the case are such as to warrant her hopefulness and alacrity. She takes up arms with no selfish object. Her cause is that of public law, morality, and order. She aims at no increase of power or territory, and struggles for no advantage peculiar to herself. It is a war of principle that she wages, and none but the enemies of justice can be arrayed against her. Did she stand alone in such a cause, there would be no reason to fear her discomfiture; but, supported as she is, discomfiture is a word that has long ago been erased from the imagination, as well as from the calculation, of her people. That she has any allies is a fact for which to be grateful; but that she should have an ally like France merits more than gratitude. When two great and noble nations, "separated by a narrow frith," and who, till within a period yet remembered by living men, considered themselves natural enemies, born to "abhor each other," unite in the face of the world, forgetful of their old traditional feuds, and show the bright example of union in support of European order against the Barbarian who would reduce it into anarchy, the risks and evils of the war are cheaply purchased. Such a spectacle is of itself sufficient recompense for a host of sacrifices. It proves that the commercial spirit has not deadened the heroic sentiment—that nations capable of acting together in support of principles so lofty are yet in the early vigour of their history; and that semi-barbarous countries, such as Russia, must keep their own place, or learn to compete with them in civilisation, and in respect for public justice, before they can hope to struggle against them successfully at the cannon's mouth. There was never a time in which the real interests of countries situated towards each other as Great Britain to France, and France to Great Britain were not in reality identical. All the wars between these great nations have been mistakes. The fact has long been apparent to the popular mind in this country. I



INTERVIEW OF BRITISH VISITORS WITH OMER PACHA, AT SCHUMLA.—(SEE PAGE 196.)

bids fair to become equally apparent to the popular mind of the French. Their generous emulation when the two shall fight side by side against the same enemy will do more than has ever yet been done to render all future wars impossible between them.

So much for the moral aspects of this great struggle. The material aspects of the question are in no degree less inspiring. Eight or nine years ago, when the national energies were depressed by an unwise commercial and fiscal system, it was easy to form gloomy anticipations of the fortunes of England. Such anticipations were widely indulged in. Groping among blind Statistics, and armed with proofs from the voluminous Blue-Books of Poor-law Inspectors, Prison Inspectors, School Inspectors, and Lunacy Inspectors, our modern Habakkus denounced wrath and woe upon their country. "So miserable," said they, "is the state of the honest English labourer, that every man among them is burdened, not only with his own support, but with that of a pauper, a criminal, a soldier, and a sailor." But the shadow has passed from the face of the country since then. The pauper and the criminal are no longer the burdens that they were. Fair play to honest labour has relieved us of all but the inevitable residuum of both classes; and, so far from feeling it an infliction to have to support a soldier and a sailor during the approaching struggle, honest John Bull will willingly support half-a-dozen of each. His lassitude and decrepitude have passed away; and England is at this moment—when she is about to fight one of the noblest wars she ever was engaged in—stronger, richer, and more united, than ever she was in any previous era of her history.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

PARIS, Thursday.

Dear readers, we purposed giving you some account of the *jours gras*, the conclusion of the Carnival, but really it is such a dismal affair, that there is nothing worth saying on the subject. The mummeries of this season have long been on the decline; people have for a considerable time been learning to discover that marching about the streets in hideous, ridiculous, shabby, unmeaning costumes, at the risk of being frozen to death, was not amusing; and, in proportion as this conviction gathers strength, the said costumes become fewer, the wearers of them feel more ridiculous, shabby, and unmeaning, and the whole thing becomes threatened with speedy dissolution. The procession of the *bauf-gras*, aided by the brilliant sunshine, has certainly not been without considerable effect; and this is well enough in its way, but it is the individual tomfoolery of the *masques* that we view with such derision, and that we hope to see shortly brought to a conclusion.

It is said that the manufactory of porcelain at Sévres is busily occupied on a number of magnificent specimens of this beautiful china—to the execution of which a new impulsion has within the last few years been given—for the Great Industrial Exhibition of next year. Nothing can surpass the beauty of some of the modern productions of this long-celebrated manufactory, where neither art, labour, expense, nor research is spared, in order to produce the utmost perfection of form, design, and colouring; and few objects are more worthy a visit of amateurs and sight-seers in general than this establishment, situated within less than an hour's drive of Paris, and open to the inspection of all respectable comers.

The certainty of war does not seem to have much effect on the projects, public and private, entertained respecting this Exhibition. Strangely enough, it is Spain—seldom in the van in the march of intellect and improvement—that has set an example, which is likely to be followed by more active and civilised nations, by establishing, among a company of Spanish merchants residing in Paris, a monthly publication, specially intended to represent at the Exhibition the interests of Spain, her dependencies and colonies in Europe and America. The first number of "El Precursor de la Exposición de 1855"—such is the name of the periodical in question—appeared last week. A certain portion is devoted to art and literature; but the principal subject of the work is the commerce, industry, and mechanical improvements and interests of the Spanish.

M. H. de Villemessant is about to renew the *Figaro*, which has had an interregnum of some years. It is to be of a character exclusively literary, without any mixture of politics; and is to be brought out weekly, beginning on the 1st of March.

Our plan of a Railway Library is coming much into vogue here; a great number of short works on all subjects being printed, in a particular form, with this intention. No less than seven or eight houses of importance are at this moment particularly employed in this commerce, which a year ago was unknown, or nearly so, in France.

A new and most valuable discovery in the application of chloroform has just been made here by the *docteur* Delabarre, whose name, in connection with the study of this medical agent, is already honourably known. In order to perform an operation, instead of producing general insensibility in the patient, which, in many cases, has been attended with dangerous, and even fatal, results—Dr. Delabarre has found the means of directing a jet of the vapour of chloroform on the part affected, so as to produce merely local insensibility; thus obtaining all the desirable results of the system without any of its risks or disadvantages. At a meeting of medical men, on Thursday last, Dr. Delabarre operated on nine patients, in each case with success more or less marked; some having experienced no sensation of the operation whatsoever, others merely a consciousness of it, but without pain.

The clergy in France, having made some discoveries relative to the organisation and strength of the order of Freemasons, has declared war on the whole body, as enemies of the faith. As, among the ranks, some of the high dignitaries of the State are placed—the Prince Mura being the present Grand Master, and the other members of the Imperial family holding posts of note therein—the combat will be one of no mean importance and difficulty; but the clerical party is not easily discouraged, where there is a question of defeating an enemy; and there is little doubt but that Gallicans and Ultramontane will, for a moment, cease their internal squabbles to join against the common foe. The most formidable part of the affair is, that the said foe, counting, it is computed, as many as 78,000 or 80,000 strong in its ranks, has established a *caisse de suscription*, containing an annual contribution of an average of twelve francs for each member. It is true that the sum in question is exclusively employed in works of charity, and the relief of misfortune, but that is nothing: *le diable n'y perd rien*, and his emissaries must be annihilated.

The illness of the Abbé Lamennais, which, in our last letter, we announced as having taken a favourable turn, has terminated fatally; greatly aggravated by his having imprudently received visitors, contrary to the advice of his physician. The most alarming symptoms attended with delirium, declared themselves, and on Monday morning he expired, without having made any alteration in the testamentary disposition for his funeral which we recorded.

Nearly all the Russians have left Paris, the Princess Lieven at their head, in consequence of an intimation of the Czar's surprise and dissatisfaction that they had not sooner attended to the intimation relative to the necessity of their departure contained in the circular of M. Kisseloff, distributed previous to his quitting Paris.

A sale is now taking place of the furniture, library, and personal property of M. Armand Bertin, the late director of the *Journal des Débats*, which is attended with great interest from the singular beauty of the china and articles of *vertu*, and the extreme value and rarity of the books, which form one of the most curious and valuable small collections that could be brought together. It is said the Duc d'Aumale purchases most of these, with a large portion of the shelves which contained them, and which are in magnificently-carved oak, with Cariatides and ornaments of Florentine bronze.

It is with great pleasure we have to announce the triumphant success of the new piece of Madame Emile de Girardin, "La Joie fait Peur," which appeared on Saturday, at the Théâtre Français. This little *chez d'œuvre* is in one act, and turns on an incident so simple that it cannot be called a plot; the whole charm, therefore, lies in the treatment; and never could the most exciting tragedy or *larmoyant* melodrama call forth more tender interest, or cause more lively emotion, than is felt from the rising to the falling of the curtain over this little gem.

M. DROUYN DE LHUYS' CIRCULAR.

The following circular from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been addressed to all the diplomatic and consular agents of France, ordering them to give their support to the subjects and the commerce of England in every case where they may be menaced by the common enemy:—

Sir,—Being compelled to admit the possibility of hostilities between them and Russia, the Government of his Imperial Majesty and that of her Britannic Majesty have thought that the alliance which they have contracted in view to a common danger should cover the interests of all those who might suffer from the consequences of the war. Whatever may be the extent of the resources at their disposal, particularly at sea, they have to take into account unforeseen circumstances. Should war break out, it might happen in anchorages where the naval forces of each of them might not constantly present themselves, that their subjects or their flag might not have, at the needful moment, all the protection necessary for their security. The two Governments have found a means of providing for these eventualities in the concerted adoption of a system of reciprocal protection embracing these interests, which are scattered over every latitude. The diplomatic and commercial agents, as well as the commanders of the naval forces of each of the two nations, must therefore give their support to the subjects and the trade of the other, under every circumstance, where they may be attacked by the common enemy. You will, sir, in consequence, consider the English subjects and vessels within your jurisdiction as having the same right as French subjects and vessels to all the assistance which comes within your attributions; and you will give notice of this prescription to the officers of the Imperial navy, who may be in a position to concur in the measures which circumstances resulting from the state of war may render necessary. The agents and officers of her Britannic Majesty will receive similar instructions; so that the subjects and commerce of the two nations will be authorised to rely on the reciprocal protection of the Consuls, and the navy of the two Powers. You will understand, sir, that I do not attempt to point out to you before-hand all the cases which may call for your intervention. It is for your own judgment to apply the principle by which your conduct is to be regulated. The two Governments have thought less of pointing out the forms in which this protection is to be exercised than of marking the character which it is to assume. In giving to the world this fresh proof of the unity of their views and the sincerity of their alliance, they are persuaded that, in order to secure to this common measure all desirable efficacy, their agents have only to be inspired with the same spirit of joint responsibility which has influenced the minds of the two Cabinets. (Signed) DROUYN DE LHUYS.

THE RUSSIAN ARMY ON THE DANUBE.

The Russian forces in the Principalities, which are generally considered to number 200,000, do not much exceed half that number, according to the most trustworthy on the subject. They are composed of the 3rd corps d'armée, which has up to the present time only two divisions of infantry and one division of cavalry in Wallachia, the other division being quartered in Bessarabia. The whole of the 4th corps d'armée is in Wallachia; and one division of infantry and one of cavalry, belonging to the 5th corps, are likewise there. The rest of the 5th corps d'armée is part in the Caucasus and part in Bessarabia. The total of the Russian forces on the Danube, therefore, does not exceed 120,000 men. There are, consequently, in the Principalities but six divisions of infantry, three of cavalry, and several regiments of Cossacks. Of these forces, three divisions of infantry guard the banks of the Danube from Widdin to Galatz, opposite to the Turkish posts; as also the greater part of the cavalry. It is, therefore, evident that only three divisions remain at the disposal of the Commander-in-Chief to be brought to attack in a body. These divisions are, the 8th, 9th, and 12th, numbering 36,000 men, considering them as fully complete. It is, however, still doubtful whether Prince Gortchakoff has marched all this force from the centre, in order to attack Kalafat, which is from sixteen to twenty marches distant from Bucharest, leaving the Danube defended by a simple cordon of troops, stretching along its banks; for although it is not considered likely that the Turks will pass the Danube at Rustchuk or Silistra, it were great temerity to leave the banks of that stream so exposed. It may therefore be presumed that the forces with which General Gortchakoff would advance on Kalafat are the following:—Two divisions of infantry, and the division of cavalry (Fischbach) already quartered at Krajova; some battalions of the 10th division, and some regiments of Cossacks. These troops may amount to from 30,000 to 35,000 men, and this is no doubt a considerable force; it by no means, however, equals the number generally assigned to the army now quartered at Krajova.

RUSSIAN DIPLOMATIC SPIES.

The *Breslauer Zeitung* mentions a circumstance which shows how faithfully the Czar is served by the spies whom he employs in every Court in Europe. Some time back, before any contingency of war in Europe was contemplated, a new plan for the mobilization of the Prussian army was drawn up by the Minister of War; and, being a confidential document, only ten copies were struck off after it was lithographed, and these were distributed only to certain privileged persons. One of these ten copies of this important document has found its way just lately into the hands of the Emperor of Russia, who has shown it in his possession with an air of exultation. The document was not drawn up with reference to the calling out of the army at any specified time, but was a general plan for arranging how it should be mobilised when occasion should require; it had, therefore, intrinsically, no worth to the Emperor, but is of immeasurable value to him as proving how admirably he is served by men to whom orders, gold snuff-boxes with portraits set in diamonds, &c., are of greater attraction than their country's welfare. The man who thus purloined and misappropriated this document, which gains now an additional value in the Emperor's eyes from the possibility of the two countries being soon engaged in war, would be gladly have forwarded him a more valuable memorial. Public suspicion, which is prevented by the nature of the case from seeking the offender in a low sphere of life, does not hesitate to affix itself to more than one person in a very high region.

THE "FRIENDS" AND THE CZAR.

The interview between the deputation from the Society of Friends and the Emperor Nicholas took place on the 10th ult. The address was of the usual tone of such documents—praise of peace, and horror of war being the only topics. The members of the deputation have published the following report of their reception:—

The Emperor, after listening with kind attention to the address, said he wished to offer some explanation of his views as to the causes of the present unhappy differences. His observations in the course of the conversation, were nearly as follows:—

"We received the blessings of Christianity from the Greek empire; and this has established and maintained ever since a link of connection, both moral and religious, between Russia and that Power. The tie that have thus united the two countries have subsisted for 900 years, and were not severed by the conquest of Russia by the Tartars; and when, at a later period, our country succeeded in shaking off that yoke, and the Greek empire, in its turn, fell under the sway of the Turks, we still continued to take a lively interest in the welfare of our co-religionists there; and when Russia became powerful enough to resist the Turks, and to dictate terms of peace, we paid particular attention to the well-being of the Greek Church, and procured the insertion in successive treaties of most important articles in her favour. I have myself acted as my predecessors have done; and the treaty of Adrianople, in 1849, was as explicit as the former ones in this respect. Turkey, on her part, recognised this right of religious interference, and fulfilled her engagements until within the last year or two, when, for the first time, she gave me reason to complain. I will not

now advert to the parties who were her principal instigators on that occasion. Suffice it to say that it became my duty to interfere, and to claim from Turkey the fulfilment of her engagements. My representations were pressing, but friendly, and I have every reason to believe that matters would soon have been settled if Turkey had not been induced by other parties to believe that I had ulterior objects in view—that I was aiming at conquest, aggrandisement, and the ruin of Turkey. I have solemnly disclaimed, and do now as solemnly disclaim, every such motive. . . . I do not desire war; I abhor it as sincerely as you do; and am ready to forget the past, if only the opportunity be afforded me. I have great esteem for your country, and a sincere affection for your Queen, whom I admire, not only as a Sovereign, but as a lady, a wife, and a mother. I have placed full confidence in her, and have acted towards her in a frank and friendly spirit. I felt it my duty to call her attention to future dangers, which I considered sooner or later likely to arise in the East, in consequence of the existing state of things. What on my part was prudent foresight, has been unfairly construed in your country into a designing policy and an ambitious desire of conquest. This has deeply wounded my feelings, and afflited my heart. Personal insults and invectives I regard with indifference. It is beneath my dignity to notice them, and I am ready to forgive all that is personal to me, and to hold out my hand to my enemies in the true Christian spirit. I cannot understand what cause of complaint your nation has against Russia. I am anxious to avoid war by all means. I will not attack, and shall only act in self-defence. I cannot be indifferent to what concerns the honour of my country. I have a duty to perform as a Sovereign. As a Christian, I am ready to comply with the precepts of religion. On the present occasion, my great duty is to attend to the interests and honour of my country."

The deputation remarked that, as their mission was not of a political character, but intended simply to convey to the Emperor the sentiments of their own society as a religious body, they did not feel it to be their place to enter into any of the questions involved in the present dispute; but, with the Emperor's permission, they would be glad to call his attention specially to a few points. . . . They said that they and many others in their own country had incurred the disfavour of the supporters of the present military system by advocating the settlement of international disputes by arbitration. They also remarked that, seeing that, while Mahomedanism avowedly justifies the employment of the sword in propagating its doctrines, Christianity is emphatically a religion of peace, there appeared (with reference to the present dispute) a peculiar propriety in a Christian Emperor's exercising forbearance and forgiveness. And they added that, in the event of a European war, among the thousands who would be its victims, those who were the principal causes of it would probably not be the greatest sufferers, but that the heaviest calamities would fall on innocent men, with their wives and children.

The Emperor, before quitting the apartment, informed the deputation that the Empress was desirous of seeing them. They were accordingly at once introduced to her, and to the Grand Duchess Olga, with whom they had an agreeable interview.

The deputation were subsequently informed, through Baron Nicolay, that the Emperor desired to transmit to the Society of Friends a written reply to their address, which was accordingly forwarded to them previous to their departure for St. Petersburg.

JOSEPH STURGE, of Birmingham.
ROBERT CHARLETON, of Bristol.
HENRY PEASE, of Darlington.

London, 25th of 2nd month, 1854.

THE RUSSO GREEK DISTURBANCES.

The Vienna papers state that the insurgent Greeks in Albania had possessed themselves of the city of Arta. Arta (or Norda) is situated not far from the gulf of the same name, and is surrounded on three sides by the river Arta, which falls into a small bay that forms the harbour of the place. There is a large fortified Turkish castle, situated on a hill to the east, and which commands the place and the harbour; it is a town of 8000 inhabitants (who are chiefly Greeks), and it is also the seat of a Greek Bishop. The fortress of the five fountains was still in the possession of the Turks so recently as the 18th ult. It is said that, although no open insurrection had broken out in Macedonia, still the premonitory symptoms of such an event were not wanting there, while the provinces of Acarnania and Anatolia, and the districts of Ibbesson and Delonia, were already in a state of disorder. It was stated that the Turks had abandoned the city of Janina, as it might be at any moment occupied by the insurgents, when they had sufficiently consolidated their strength. Janina, in the district of the same name, is a Greek Bishop's metropolitan see, and has a population of 30,000 souls, who are chiefly Greek Christians. It was built at a remote period by John Cantacuzenus, the nephew of the Greek Emperor of that name; but its fortifications were destroyed in the last siege. The Turks had advanced with considerable forces from the interior of Albania against the insurgents; and, by way of relieving the forces who were blocked up in Arta, martial law had been proclaimed against the rebels. The insurrectionary army in Albania was said to amount to 5000 men. Our Government has remonstrated very strongly with that of Greece on these frontier disturbances, in which Greek subjects appear to be the parties chiefly implicated; and the Greek Lieutenant commanding the insurgent rabble, Spiridion Tharakakis, has been summoned to return to his duty on pain of expulsion from the service.

In the districts which adjoin the Greek frontier, the Greeks had begun, as they did in 1820, with holding secret meetings of the old Hetaeria, so well worked by Russia, previous to what is called "the War of Greek independence," and now they are looking forward to fresh days of victory. The papers of Baron Olsner, which were seized at the time of his arrest at Constantinople, have, however, revealed to the Government the most minute secrets of the Greek conspirators. To the Pachas both of Janissa and of Larissa the most energetic instructions have been sent. Measures already had been taken by them against the insurgents, and now 10,000 men have been placed at the disposal of each Pacha, and the very fullest authority has been intrusted to them. Large bodies of troops have been stationed in reserve at Argrocastro, Therbene, and Blachio Livade, which the Pachas are to employ, if their present forces prove inadequate.

Letters from Odessa of the 18th ult., state that Halim Pacha, at present Commander of the Turkish troops in the Dobrudchia, is to conduct the operations of the campaign against the rebels. He is considered to be one of the ablest generals in the Turkish army, and chiefly signalised himself in 1831, and likewise in a campaign against the rebellious Albanians. The latest advices from the Montenegrin frontier state that the Turkish corps of observation is in sufficient strength to paralyse any attempts that might be made to form a junction between the insurgents of Albania and the warlike inhabitants of Montenegro. The Pacha of Scutari had arrived in person on the frontier, to superintend all necessary measures. Podgoriza, Gerol, Garishani, and Zabalaie, were the principal stations of the Turkish corps of observation. A letter from Corfu of the 12th ult. states that English troops had been embarked there, who, it was understood, were destined to be sent to the opposite coast of Albania. From the rest of the Ionian Islands, we also hear that similar expeditions were in preparation. These energetic measures for the suppression of the revolt in Albania will, no doubt, be effectual. From Salonica we have letters of the 12th, from which we learn that symptoms of disorder had begun, on the 8th and 9th, to display themselves among the Greek population in that city also; but it was speedily suppressed by the sudden and energetic operations of the Pacha.

The French and English Ambassadors have sent two steamers to the assistance of the Turks, and probably the Gulfs of Contessa and Salonia, and the coast of Albania, will be declared in a state of siege.

RUSSIAN TOLERANCE.

The kind of tolerance that prevails in the Russian empire—the Government of which has now drawn the sword on behalf of the privileges of the orthodox church in the East—may be judged from the fact that the Catholic missionaries in Transcaucasia have been peremptorily commanded to make no proselytes. Only a short time ago, a large number of Suanetes and Abchases, nearly all of which tribes are still heathens, applied to the prior of the convent in Kutaisi, requesting to be baptised. The prior was obliged to decline, and to send them away, for transportation to Siberia awaits any priest that dares to convert a worshipper of idols into a Roman Catholic Christian.

RUSSIAN INTRIGUES IN INDIA AND PERSIA.

The intelligence of the establishment of a Russian army on the Oxus is confirmed by the papers received by the Overland Mail; also, that an alliance, offensive and defensive, has been concluded between the Russians and Dost Mahomed, the Khan of Khiva, and the Khan of Bokhara. The following is from the Cabul Correspondent of the *Delhi Gazette*:

The Russian army had halted within two marches of Khiva, and was employed in the construction of cantonments. Four Russian agents had reached Dost Mahomed, bearing a message from the Russian General. The message was to this effect:—Dost Mahomed was solicited to proceed with his camp to the banks of the Oxus; there to meet two Russian Envoys with letters from the Czar—one addressed to the Ameri himself, and the other to the King of Bokhara—proposing the formation of a quadruple alliance between the Czar, the Khan of Khiva, Dost Mahomed, and the King of Bokhara; the alliance to be agreed upon on the right bank of the Oxus. Should Dost Mahomed agree to the proposal, the

Russian General would come in person to the right or northern bank of the Oxus (in the neighbourhood of Charkoree, we presume), and await an interview with the Dost. Dost Mahomed's reply was, that he consented to the proposed negotiations; but that he would not cross the Oxus to meet his old enemy the King of Bokhara, unless the Russian General would, in the first place, cross to the Afghan side of the river, bringing with him, as temporary hostages, the son and Prime Minister of the King of Bokhara. On these terms he would not only treat with the King of Bokhara, but would forgive all his past offences, holding that the importance of the quadruple alliance should throw all private quarrels into the shade. On these terms, then, a treaty of alliance between Russia, Khiva, Bokhara, and Cabul was on the point of settlement. A marked alteration had taken place in Dost Mahomed's demeanour since the completion of these arrangements. He seems to have become unusually cheerful on the strength of the promised alliance. The intrigues of Russia in Central Asia can no longer be despised; this is daily becoming more and more evident; but what is not so evident, is the course we are to pursue under these embarrassing circumstances. Must we at once occupy Afghanistan to secure the safety of India?—or would it be wiser merely to augment our military strength on the line of the Indus?—are questions on which public opinion is divided, and which the progress of events alone can solve.

A native gentleman of this town (says the *Bombay Courier*), whose word we have no reason whatever to doubt—but, on the contrary, every cause for believing—tells us that he saw, some three days ago, a letter from a Soucar at Shikarpore to a correspondent in Bombay; and that the writer mentioned, as a piece of news, having heard from a Hindoo who had lately arrived from Candahar, that there were in the latter town three European Sahibs, who had not come from Hindostan, but from "Rooze" (Russia). They belonged to a country which was at enmity with the English Sikhs; and the Candahar people said that, when the cold days were ended, an army from Persia united with an army from the country whence came these strangers, would be in their town, and on its way to the Bolan Pass and Scinde. These "Roozes," said the letter, were very rich men, and had brought a quantity of fine merchandise with them. They had constant interviews with the princes of the town, and were purchasing great quantities of grain. We have "told the tale as 'twas told to us." But as the old proverb of there "never being smoke without some fire," is generally true, so we think that the very existence of these reports shows clearly that Russian intrigues and influences are at work above the Passes, and in a much greater degree than the majority of people imagine. Not but what we believe British India is fully prepared for anything which Russia, Afghanistan, Bokhara, and Persia—all united—would effect against us. The largest army which could come out on the plains either below the Kyber or the Bolan, would hold together but long enough for our troops to defeat them most completely; and although their native allies might escape, not a Russian soldier who ever entered the plains of India, would return alive again. Still, moves on the political chess-board, like the two which the Czar seems inclined to make in these parts, should be watched, and intrigue met by counter-intrigue.

The intelligence from Persia, received by the Overland Mail, is no less threatening. The *Sindian* of the 18th January states that an immense army was concentrated at Teheran, ready to march at a moment's notice; and that the British agent and the Turkish Ambassador had been compelled to lower the flags of their respective nations, and take their departure from Teheran. It was supposed by some that the army would march on Herat, where a junction could be formed with the Russian army, and that the whole would then march on Candahar and Cabool, and take up a position. Bagdad and Bussorah were both threatened, and a force of 10,000 men had been thrown into the latter place for its defence. The port of Bushire was in a state of great excitement. Captain Kemball, the political agent, had been obliged to leave the town, and take refuge on board one of the ships in the harbour. The island of Karrack was occupied by Persian troops, who were fortifying it. On the other hand, private letters from Teheran, of the 12th January, state that the Governor of Kandahar and the ruler of Cabool were coming to hard blows. Sultan Ali Khan, charged with a special mission from Kuhendil Khan of Kandahar, had arrived in the capital of Persia, and had demanded the armed intervention of the Shah to oppose the aggressions of Sheer Ali Khan, the son of Dost Mahomed Khan, who was marching at the head of 8000 horsemen into Kandahar. The Government of Persia had named a certain Abdullah Sistany Khan as Plenipotentiary to proceed to Kandahar, to offer the Shah's mediation to the belligerent parties.

THE FLEETS IN THE BLACK SEA.

Letters from Varna, of the 9th ult., state that two French steamers, the *Gomer* and *Sane*, and two English ones, the *Samson* and the *Firebrand*, had passed a day there during the late cruise in the Black Sea. Rear-Admiral Le Barbier de Tiau and his staff were received at Varna with extraordinary enthusiasm. The Pacha sent his carriages to meet them at the landing-place, and an escort of honour awaited them at the port. M. Tedeschi, the French consular agent, gave a fête on the occasion.

On the 8th ult., the *Magellan* and the *Furious* steamers arrived at Varna, escorting eight Turkish vessels laden with arms and ammunition. Next morning the two captains visited the civil and military pachas; after which the two vessels saluted the citadel with twenty-one guns, to which the citadel replied with forty-two guns, with great precision, from the only four guns there mounted. The greatest activity prevailed in the port in discharging the Turkish vessels.

General Sir John Burgoyne and Colonel Ardant had left Constantinople on the 10th ult., with M. Jourjon, Lieutenant-Colonel of engineers, attached to the French embassy, to visit the forts of the Dardanelles. It appears that it is intended to fortify the Dardanelles, so as to preserve them from an attack by land, in case the Russians should succeed in passing the Balkans. The Minister of War has already proposed to several of the principal merchants of Constantinople to contract for the supply of the necessary cannon, gunpowder, and balls; but as he requires a year's credit, the affair has not yet been concluded. Immediately after the Porte received the negative reply of the Emperor of Russia to the propositions of the conference of Vienna, Reschid Pacha had interviews with the Ambassadors of France and England, and the day after an extraordinary council was held, at which it was resolved that the Porte should adopt the opinion of the conference of Vienna on the rejection of the propositions, and that it would not on any account accept the new propositions made by Russia.

By the telegraph we learn from Marseilles that a third convoy of 16,000 men was preparing on the 15th ult. to leave Constantinople for Batoum. Another despatch from Constantinople, 18th ult., states that the whole fleet, except two ships sent to the Piraeus, is in the Bosphorus.

SKIRMISHES ON THE DANUBE.

One account from Bucharest of the 13th ult., states that the Turkish troops stationed at Turtukai made attempts, on the 11th and 12th, to force a passage, so as to take up a passage near Oltenitza; that they were prevented from landing on the first day by the Russian batteries; that on the second day they forced the passage, by landing on a peninsula, but were forced to retire after a brief combat. A letter from Bucharest of the 16th speaks of the Adjutant-General Schilder having gone to Oltenitza, in order to superintend there, as he had previously done at Giurgevo, the mounting of heavy ordnance against Turtukai. The island required for this new proceeding had first to be taken; which had, of course, given rise to a series of fights between the Russians and Turks upon the island itself, and up to the 14th of February the Russians had not been able to vanquish the desperate resistance of their antagonists. A subsequent report states that, on the 18th ult., the Russians had made themselves masters of Oltenitza.

INSURRECTION AT SARAGOSSA.

An insurrectionary movement took place at Saragossa, on the 20th ult. A brigadier named Hore, much attached to General Concha had been ordered to proceed with the first battalion of his regiment to Pamplona. He refused to do so, imprisoned those officers who would not join in the revolt, and called on the civilians to join him. Captain-General Rivero marched against the insurgents at the head of three regiments, and several pieces of artillery. A desperate fight took place, in which Brigadier Hore was killed. The insurgents, who occupied the Fort of Algaferia, surrendered at discretion next morning.

INDIA AND CHINA.

The steamer *Bombay* arrived at Trieste from Alexandria, on Saturday last, with advices from Bombay to Jan. 28; Calcutta, Jan. 20; Hong-kong, Jan. 11; and Shanghai, Dec. 31. The most important political news from India was the rumour relating to Russian movements, which we have given elsewhere. No further news had been received from the Persian Gulf.

From China we learn that the patriots had secured Teentsin, the seaport of Pekin; and that the Emperor had ordered the Governors to send the imperial revenue to Mantachorin, 80 miles north-east of the wall. Canton remained without disturbance.

THE Master-Generalship of the Ordnance will not be filled up during Lord Raglan's absence, but he held in commission until his Lordship's return from the East.

CHINA:

ITS PRESENT CONDITION AND PROSPECTS.

ABSORBED as the public mind is by the war in the East, yet the events hastening onward in China—to which remote portion of the globe, indeed, the momentous influence of the Russian contest reaches—are opening up a future not less important to the human race than even the imminent conflict on the Danube. Having received some interesting intelligence from a long experienced, and, we have reason to believe, a very authentic source, we place it before our readers, though it belongs to another branch of contemporaneous history, differing from that with which we are so vividly occupied.

The vestiges of the Christian religion in China, whether derived from the Syrian Nestorians above a thousand years ago, or from Xavier and his successor Ricci, three centuries since—and both extinguished, if not extirpated, by cruel persecutions—are perceptible in the doctrines and mysteries of all the secret societies which have sprung out of these circumstances. But, in all, they are blurred by horrid superstitions and perversions; the best of them leaning to the golden rules of Freemasonry and Rationalism. But, again, they are each distinct, and are, in fact, now in action as great separate conspiracies, directed to a common object, viz., the overthrow of the Tartar dynasty and re-establishment of Chinese rule, but as inimical to each other as sectarians with partial differences of opinion, or trivial disputes about rites and ceremonies, generally are. According to this view it will appear that in Europe we have hitherto formed an erroneous estimate of the business in hand throughout the principal provinces of the Empire, and of the consequences likely to result from it. We have been led to speak of "the insurrection" as a unity, subserving to one end. But this is the very opposite of the case. There are already three independent bodies of successful rebels in the field, vehemently hating each other, operating in different directions for their own ambitious objects, besides the anarchists, who are for plunder; and it is certain that ere long other powerful communities will throw themselves into the arena. Pekin is, probably, by this date, or will soon be, in the hands of the victorious Elder Brother, Tae Ping, which is assumed as a title of reverence equal to that of Emperor, and thus preferring a claim to the whole vast Empire. But, while he has been marching northwards from Nanking, revolutions have taken place at Amoy and Shanghai; the leaders of which, if conquerors, will not be contented with rank inferior to Whang-Te, or equal sovereigns. It is also understood and believed at Canton that the fall of Pekin will be the signal for a rising of that rich and populous section of the country; and that there, too, an independent Government will be established. Thus we may perceive the types of coming dynasties, instead of a reconstructed united empire. And China is vast and populous enough to cut up into several powerful states or kingdoms—the obvious issue of the existing state of things. The Pekin Lords are not likely to yield their predominance. The Amoy force, consisting of the Fo-Kien natives, the bravest soldiers in China, will, if possible, hold their grip of what they can subdue. The Shanghai revolt is also strong, and advantageously situated, and if Canton asserts its right to a share in the spoil, we know not who could say it nay. Wars might probably ensue among these, and other up-springing, rival factions; but the whole must tend to an extraordinary change in the relations of mankind. The character and genius of the entire Chinese people are pre-eminently industrious and commercial. Nothing now—war or peace, anarchy or quiet, destruction or construction—can retard their progress, for any length of time, to form a prominent part of the great human family. At home and abroad their entrance into that family—bringing after them Japan, and other hitherto exclusive nations—must produce incalculable, inconceivable consequences; and all this is on the crisis at this very moment. The Ee, or Manee (Barbarians), or even the mercantile Ying-le-Gin (men of the English nation), may not think of it, whilst the Czar, and Omer Pacha, and the departure of expeditions, are daily on the *tapis*; but so early as ten years hence it will be seen that there were movements on the face of the earth in the years 1853-4 (and it may be, 5), in comparison with which, the war to which we have been so infamously provoked was a trifling concern.

What we wish, from our information, to impress upon the public is, the expectation of the breaking up of the Chinese empire into several governments, probably antagonistic; and the expediency of taking measures accordingly, both for the wisest adjustment of political relations and the most advantageous pursuit of commercial intercourse. Distracted as the country is now, there are many opportunities offered for the acquisition of desirable knowledge; and it is to be hoped that even the immediate pressure of other important national affairs will not prevent us from pursuing a systematic course to attain this most important end.

A HURRICANE AT GIBRALTAR.—A dreadful hurricane at Gibraltar on the 15th ult. is said to have caused great damage to the town and to the shipping in the roads. Part of the roof of the Commissary-General's quarters was blown in. The Presbyterian church and a great number of houses were materially injured. A keeper and two convicts were washed from the breakwater, and other lives were lost. Several vessels and small craft drifted ashore in Gibraltar Bay and Algeciras Roads.

APPREHENDED RETURN OF CHOLERA.—A deputation, consisting of Lords Harrowby, Ebrington, and Goderich, Mr. T. S. Cocks, M.P., Mr. Granville Harcourt, M.P., Sir J. Clark, Admiral Smyth, Mr. E. Cocks, Mr. Helps, and many other influential persons, waited on Lord Palmerston on Monday, to inquire what measures the Government were about to adopt with respect to the apprehended return of cholera. Lord Harrowby having explained the object of the deputation, and stated what he considered desirable to be done, Lord Palmerston said Sir William Molesworth, as President of the Board of Health, intended to bring in an amended act to enlarge the powers which the present law gave to the board. For himself, he should feel greatly obliged if any member of the deputation would furnish him, in writing, with the heads of improvements which any measure of the sort ought to contain, and that he would be happy to communicate with Sir W. Molesworth on the subject. Lord Ebrington stated the difficulty experienced by the Board of Health in consequence of the little power they possessed in carrying out the provisions of the Public Health Act; he had resigned in consequence of that want of power. Mr. Helps having made some observation, Lord Palmerston again invited the deputation to make any suggestion they considered important. Mr. Ward went at some length into the proposed remedies for the present evils of defective drainage and supply of water; and, after discussion on the points submitted, Lord Palmerston again expressed his willingness to receive any communication in writing from the deputation. Mr. Ward, Mr. Simon, and Mr. Bullar have been appointed to draw up a draft report.

OBITUARY OF EMINENT PERSONS.

SIR JOHN GERARD, BART., OF BRYN.

THE death of this Baronet occurred on the 21st ult. Sir John Gerard was born Dec. 8, 1804; and, on the 2nd August, 1826, at the decease of his uncle Sir William, the 11th Baronet, succeeded to the family title, which was conferred on his ancestor Sir Thomas Gerard, of Bryn, on the first day of the institution of the order of Baronets, May 22, 1611. The Gerards of Bryn are one of the oldest houses in Lancashire, and possess considerable estates in that county. The gentleman whose decease we are recording, was son of the late John Gerard Esq., of Windle Hall, Lancashire, by Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Edward Ferrers, Esq., of Badlesley, Clinton, county Warwick; and grandson of Sir Robert Cansfield Gerard, 9th Baronet, by Catherine his wife, daughter of William Anderton, Esq., of Euxton. He married Dec. 3, 1827, Monica, daughter of Thomas Strickland Standish, Esq., of Standish and Sizergh, but had no issue. The title devolves accordingly on his next surviving brother, now Sir Robert Gerard, 13th Baronet, who is married to Harriet, daughter of Edward Clifton, Esq.

CHRISTOPHER DRAKE, ESQ., OF RORISTON, CO. MEATH.

THIS much-esteemed gentleman—the representative of one of the oldest families in Meath, the Drakes, of Drakerath—died on the 22nd ult., at his seat, Roriston, near Trim, aged sixty-three. He was the last surviving son of the late Columbus Drake, Esq., of Roriston, by Anne, his wife, only daughter of Christopher Barnewall, Esq., of Fyantown Castle, co. Meath; and grandson of Patrick Drake, Esq., of Drakerath, by Frances, his wife, third daughter of James O'Reilly, Esq., of Roriston.

Mr. Drake married, first, Mary Anne, daughter of Nicholas Ganon, Esq., of Ballyboy, by whom he leaves one surviving son, the present Columbus P. Drake, Esq., of Roriston, J.P.; and, secondly, Mary, eldest daughter of Alexander Somers, Esq., by whom he had several children, of whom survive two sons and one daughter.

SIR JAMES EVERARD HOME, BART., C.B., OF WELL MANOR FARM, HANTS.

THIS gallant officer died recently, on service, aged 55. He was the elder son of the late Sir Everard Home, Sergeant Surgeon to George III., on whom a baronetcy was conferred Jan. 2, 1813. At an early age he entered the Royal navy, and eventually, in 1837, attained the rank of Captain. For his distinguished services in the Chinese War he was nominated a Companion of the Bath in 1842. As Sir James Everard Home never married, the Baronetcy becomes extinct.

SIR HENRY PEYTON, BART.

SIR HENRY PEYTON, second Baronet of Doddington, in the county of Cambridge, was the elder son of Sir Henry Peyton (formerly Dashwood), the first Baronet, by his wife, Frances, eldest daughter of Sir John Rous, Bart. He was born the 1st July, 1779; succeeded his father in the Baronetcy in May, 1789; and married, in 1803, Harriet, relict of James Bradshaw, Esq., and daughter of Thomas Fitzhugh, Esq., by whom he leaves an only son, the present Baronet. Sir Henry Peyton, who was elected M.P. for Cambridge in 1802, died on the 24th ultimo, at Swift's House, near Bicester, Oxfordshire.

This family of Peyton, in the male line, is a branch of the Oxfordshire family of Dashwood: the first Baronet, the father of the subject of this notice, assumed the name and arms of Peyton, on inheriting, by devise, the estates of his maternal uncle, Sir Thomas Peyton, of Doddington, a Baronet of an earlier creation.

THE ABBE LAMENNAIS.

M. DE LAMENNAIS was originally a priest in holy orders of the Church of Rome, and a bold and energetic supporter of its doctrines; so much so, indeed, that, at one time, he was thought likely to advance very high in the Church, and even to obtain a Cardinal's hat. Suddenly he altered the tone of his writings and the tenor of his conduct: he became the advocate of extreme Liberal opinions in politics and religion. He seceded from Rome, but joined no sect, having adopted and promulgated a kind of theological code of his own. His "Paroles d'un Croyant" made a great sensation. Its author subsequently acquired and sustained the character of a demagogue, both latitudinarian and fanatic. After the revolution of February, 1848, M. de Lamennais was successively member of the Constituent and of the Legislative Assembly, being elected each time for the department of the Seine. He was also nominated in the first of these assemblies to the committee appointed to draw up the Constitution of 1848; but he refused to take any part in the labours of that body. He almost merited the title of "silent member," as he never spoke but once during the whole of the time he was a representative of the people, and that was to earnestly entreat the House to let him be included in the prosecution instituted against the responsible editor of the journal, the *Peuple Constituant*, of which he was the chief editor, on the occasion of the re-establishment of the caution-money on journals. On the same occasion he spoke strongly against the dictatorship of General Cavaignac, and against any fiscal regulations whatever on the press. Latterly M. Lamennais's infidelity became more marked. In his last illness, every attempt made to induce him to conform to the duties of religion proved ineffectual: he refused positively to the end to receive the minister of any religious persuasion. A final but vain endeavour was made just before his demise, by one of his nieces, who was sent for expressly for the purpose from Brittany.

M. de Lamennais expired on the 28th ult., at his residence in the Rue du Grand Chantier, aged seventy. According to his will, his body is not to be carried into any place of religious worship, but is to be taken directly from the house in which he died to the burial-place of Père la Chaise. It is said that M. de Lamennais, in his will, disinherits all his relations who took any part in suppressing the insurrection of June, 1848. Although M. de Lamennais was so perverse in his religious opinions as to actually say he regretted revelation, he leaves a brother in Brittany, who is the head of a Christian community, resembling that of the *Frères Chrétiens*.

A portrait of M. Lamennais appeared in No. 316 of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

WILLS AND CHARITABLE BEQUESTS.

THE will of Sir Richard Godin Simeon, Bart., of Swainston, Isle of Wight, has been proved under £30,000, and probate granted to his son, Sir John Simeon, Bart., the surviving executor. The estate of the late Thomas Dowbiggin, Esq., of Abercrombie Lodge, St. John's wood, has been valued at £100,000 personally.

By the will of James Ewing, Esq., merchant, of Levenside, Glasgow, the charitable bequests to public institutions in Scotland amount to a sum exceeding £50,000. To the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, £10,000; Lunatic Asylum, £2000; Deaf and Dumb, £1000; Blind, £1000; Eye Infirmary, £200; Lying in Hospital, £300; Old Men's Society, £200; Old Women's Society, £200; House of Refuge, £2000; Night Asylum, £300; Trades House, at Glasgow, £500; Glasgow City Mission, £500; Bible Society, £500; Auxiliary ditto, £500; Glasgow Free Church, Glasgow, £5000; Free Church College, Edinburgh, £2000; and £100 per annum to the Sustentation Fund of the Free Church of Scotland, and many other charitable bequests to the Church, and annuities and legacies to the widows of merchants and others.

PREPARATIONS FOR WAR.



THE RIFLE BRIGADE EMBARKING IN "THE VULCAN" WAR STEAMER, AT PORTSMOUTH.

EMBARKATION OF TROOPS.

WE continue our Illustrations of the stirring scenes presented at our ports by the embarkation of troops for the seat of war in the East.

THE RIFLES, AT PORTSMOUTH.

On Thursday morning (last week) the 2nd battalion of the Rifle Brigade were inspected in the garrison at Portsmouth, by Major-General Simpson, in the Governor's field, prior to their embarkation. The gallant General addressed the men, briefly telling them they were going out to defend the interests of their Sovereign and country, and succour the oppressed; and he hoped they would not flinch in the performance of their duty, or allow the honour and renown of their corps to suffer any diminution. On the same afternoon the baggage of the battalion was placed on board the *Vulcan* screw troopship, Commander Von Donop, lying alongside the dockyard. On Friday the battalion mustered early in the barrack-yard, prior to departure. Every preparation had been previously made; and

there was little to be done but the marching of the men to the dock-yard. The battalion consisted of 850 men, exclusive of 80 non-commissioned officers, and 20 officers. Two companies then marched to the railway station, for conveyance to Southampton; and shortly before nine o'clock the remaining companies left their barracks for the dock-yard, being accompanied by their own band, and the bands of other regiments in garrison. A large number of persons had assembled, and gave the troops hearty cheers. Every arrangement being completed, they marched on board the *Vulcan*, which was lying alongside the dock-yard jetty. Everything was done in the most orderly and quiet manner: and by eleven o'clock the whole of the corps were on board. The *Vulcan* got up steam early on Saturday morning, and went out of harbour at eight o'clock. She anchored at Spithead, being a war-steamer, to take powder and shell on board; and, at half-past twelve, again got under way, and proceeded to her destination with a fair wind down Channel.

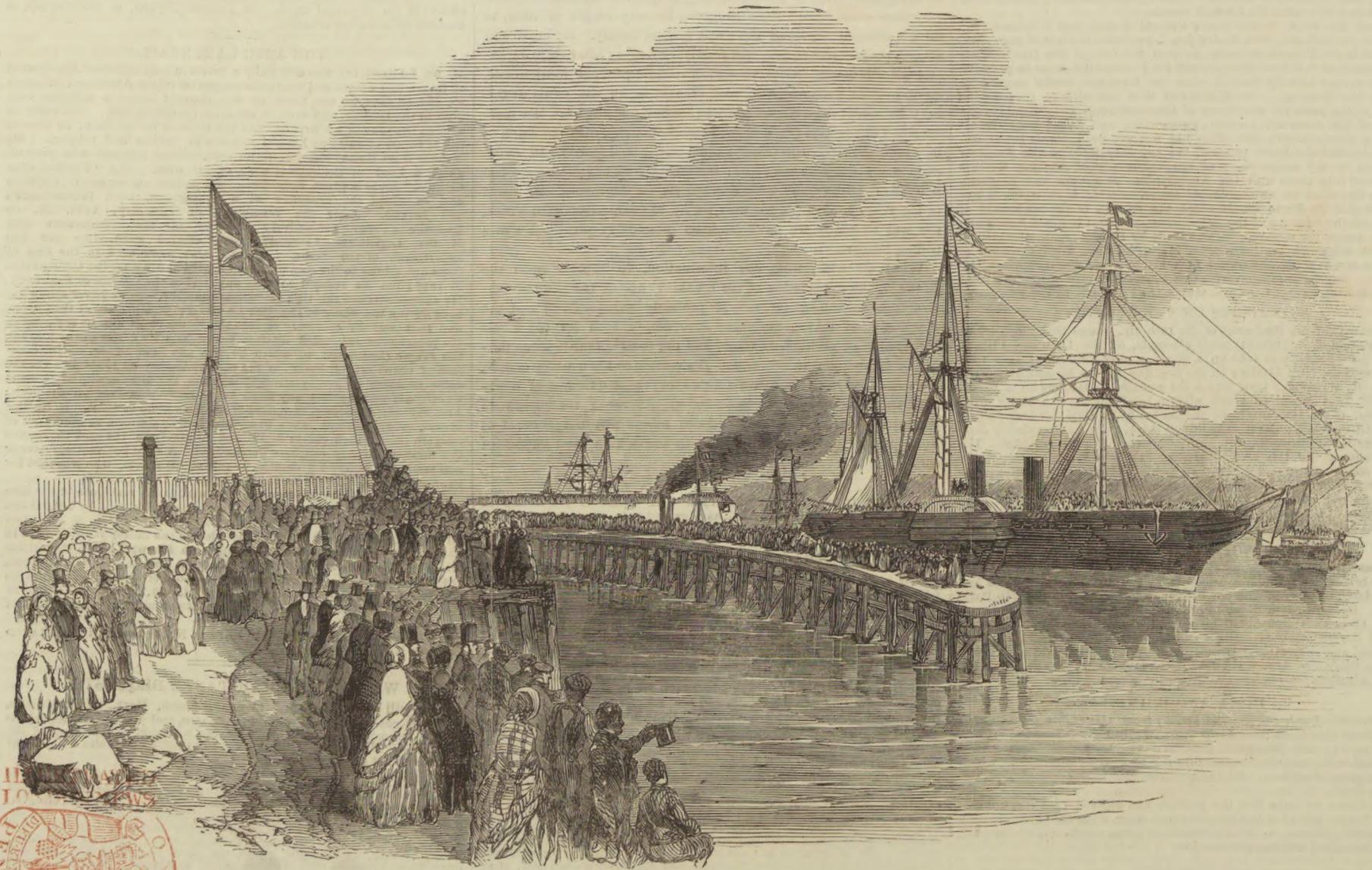
A circumstance of a romantic character occurred on the corps embarking. The wife of a private being prevented going out by the regu-

lations of the service, the dressed herself in Rifle costume, and, gun in hand, actually marched into the Dockyard. She was, however, detected on getting on board; but we hear that permission to go out with her husband was granted to her.

A number of distinguished individuals came down to Portsmouth to witness the embarkation, among whom were the following who had relatives on board:—The Duchess of Sutherland, the Marquis and Marchioness of Stafford, Marquis and Marchioness of Kildare, Earl and Countess of Grosvenor, Rear-Admiral Lord Adolphus Fitzclarence, Lord Leveson Gower, &c.

THE GUARDS AT SOUTHAMPTON.

On Wednesday morning (last week) a portion of the troops reached Southampton, by railway from London. Upon the arrival of the train, which consisted of about twenty carriages and 500 men, a portion of the battalion of the Coldstream Guards alighted. They were under the command of Colonel Eyre and Colonel Codrington—the Brigadier-General of the two regiments (Colonel Bentinck) not having arrived.



THE GRENADIER GUARDS EMBARKING IN "THE RIPON" STEAMER AT SOUTHAMPTON.

PREPARATIONS FOR WAR.



THE COLDSTREAM GUARDS, IN "THE ORINOCO" STEAMER, LEAVING SOUTHAMPTON.

The men having formed into line, and the muster-roll having been called over, they marched in threes to the docks, preceded by the fife-and-drum band, playing "See the conquering hero comes." Upon reaching that side of the dock at which the steam-ship *Orinoco* lay moored, the men again formed themselves into line; and, being stripped of their ammunition, &c., were marched single file on board the vessel waiting to convey them. Here, again, everything seemed in perfect order; the horses which are being conveyed for the use of the various officers were comfortably provided for on deck, whilst below every convenience presented itself for the accommodation of the troops, amounting to 956.

At about eight a.m. the second detachment of the above regiment arrived, and were marched in the same order to the docks. The former portion not having got on board, the latter arrival was permitted to reconnoitre as they thought proper.

No sooner had the various arrangements with regard to the Coldstream

Guards been effected, and the whole body on board, than were seen marching into the docks the first detachment of Grenadiers. This arrival directed itself to the Peninsular and Oriental Company's steamships *Ripon* and *Manilla*, which lay moored on the north-east side of the docks. By a second train arrived the second detachment of this regiment, and, after the preliminaries had been gone through, the whole of the men took their positions on board.

The gates of the docks were thrown open, and several hundreds of persons, consisting of many gentlemen and their families from the neighbourhood and adjacent places, assembled in the interior.

At about two o'clock the tide had risen to a sufficient height to allow of the *Manilla* (the smallest ship of the three) leaving the dock. Under the command of Captain Mason, she let go her moorings, and in a very short space of time was to be seen steaming down the river, amid the shouts of thousands of assembled spectators. As soon as she was fairly afloat the guns from the platform tendered her a salute of eighteen guns,

and in the meantime the *Manilla* made some considerable portion of her way towards the Solent.

In about half an hour afterwards the *Ripon* followed, and received the same compliment as had been previously paid the *Manilla*.

At five o'clock the *Orinoco*, the largest ship of the three (under the command of Captain Wilson), left the docks; and, being the finish of the day's business, departed with hearty and continued shouts from all persons who were in view of her; whilst not only on leaving the docks, but during the time she was steaming down the river, the platform guns were not neglectful of their duties in this instance either, and rendered their compliments equally distinguishable as on the former occasions.

The *Orinoco*, *Ripon*, and *Manilla* got under way immediately after daybreak on Thursday morning, and sailed for their destination. The wind, which, on the previous night, blew in heavy gusts from the south-west, had veered round to the north-west, and these fine ships, therefore, started under the most favourable auspices, with a fair wind down



EMBARKATION OF THE 50TH REGIMENT (QUEEN'S OWN), ON BOARD "THE CAMBRIA," AT KINGSTOWN.

Channel. The *Ripon* and *Manilla* will call at Gibraltar for coals on their way to Malta; but the *Orinoco* will proceed to that island direct; and, after landing the Coldstreams there, is under engagement to go to Gibraltar, to take on board the 44th Regiment, destined to form a portion of the auxiliary army.

The Embarkation of Troops by the *Himalaya* steam-ship is described and illustrated in the Supplement published with the present Number.

THE 50TH REGIMENT AT KINGSTOWN.

On Friday morning (last week) the streets of Dublin presented an animated appearance, it having been known that the first contribution from this garrison towards the expeditionary army to the East was to be despatched in the forenoon from Kingstown harbour. At eight o'clock a.m. the head-quarters of the 50th Regiment, with staff, colours, and band, were paraded and inspected in the Palatine-square of the Royal Barracks in heavy marching order, where a large crowd assembled to witness their evolutions, and repeatedly cheered during their performance. Precisely at half-past nine o'clock the troops formed four deep, the word of command was given, and they commenced their march towards the Westland-row station. The bands of the 33rd, 63rd, and 91st Regiments, having obtained permission to escort their brother soldiers on the occasion, took the lead along the north side of the quays, and played several spirited airs; among which, by the bands, were "Auld Lang Syne," and "The Good Time Coming," in playing which the bandmen took up the concluding line of each verse, after the instrumental music had died away, and sang it over again in a right joyful manner, to the great delight of the people, who raised a hearty cheer after each vocal repetition. Major Richard Waddy headed the regiment, on the colours of which we observed the words Punniar, Moodkee, Ferozeshah, Aliwal, and Sobraon—indicating the principal Indian battles in which these brave men distinguished themselves between the years 1842 and 1848. As the regiment marched along the streets, the cheering was again and again repeated, and the fair occupants of the windows and balconies waved their handkerchiefs. The troops proceeded along the north side of the quay, over Essex-bridge, through Dame-street, Nassau-street, and Leinster-street, to Westland row. Two special trains were in readiness at the railway station, to convey the regiment to Kingstown, for which three companies started at ten, and the other three at half-past ten o'clock. Throughout the whole line the liveliest demonstrations of popular feeling were made by the bystanders, and many friends of the soldiers, both male and female, accompanied them the entire distance to the railway station, where they bade them adieu with sorrowing hearts, and in not a few instances with weeping eyes. At half-past ten o'clock the first train reached its destination, and the moment the companies began to leave the terminus a hearty cheer was raised by the large crowd which had assembled to witness their embarkation. The second train arrived shortly afterwards; the business of embarkation, which was conducted under the superintendence of Captain Bevis, R.N., Admiralty agent, was at once proceeded with, and completed within a period of an hour and a half; cheer after cheer being raised as each company passed through the gangway into the steamer, and a universal shout of applause when the colours of the 50th were displayed on the deck of the *Cambria*. The men were apparently in the highest spirits, and at the termination of one of the airs played by the band a soldier caught up the air, and, adapting it to the subject uppermost in his mind, sang, "Cheer, boys, cheer, Russia's all before us," which gave rise to great merriment. A large number of distinguished spectators was present. All the baggage of the regiment was placed on board on Thursday. The destination of the *Cambria* is Constantinople, merely touching at Malta for coal and water. The total number she conveys is 620 men.

DEPARTURE OF THE SCOTS FUSILIERS GUARDS.

Tuesday morning having been finally fixed for the departure of the 1st battalion of the Scots Fusilier Guards (the crack regiment of the service) from the Wellington Barracks, *via* the South-Western Railway to Portsmouth, where they were to embark on board the *Simoons*; and the fact being generally known, a vast crowd of persons at a very early hour in the morning assembled in St. James's Park to witness their departure. It was said that the men would appear on parade as early as four o'clock, and leave the barracks at six o'clock, and many thousands had congregated in front of the barracks long before that hour; but it was speedily known that an order had been issued to delay their departure until seven o'clock, that her Majesty and Prince Albert might have the gratification of seeing the battalion pass in full marching order before them, her Majesty having signified her command to that effect. The delay thus occasioned caused a vast increase in the crowds of persons, and long before the gates were thrown open, and the troops began to march, there could not have been less than from ten to fifteen thousand persons lining Bird-cage-walk, the inclosure of the Park, and the front of Buckingham Palace. The doubt as to the real movement of the troops, and the general belief that they would proceed towards the Horse Guards, caused the body of the crowd to assemble in the rear of the east gate of the barracks; the result, of necessity, was to produce the greatest possible confusion and inconvenience to the men; it being with the greatest difficulty that they could force their way through, and to such an extent that at times they were actually wedged in and unable to move in regular order.

A more soul-stirring exhibition than that of Tuesday morning has seldom taken place in the metropolis since the last war. The thousands of persons who rose from their beds to welcome and cheer the departure of the battalion were amply gratified, for a finer set of men than the Fusilier Guards could not, perhaps, be seen in any service.

At six o'clock the roll was called for parade, and many stragglers were found absent; but, in a very short time, every man was fully equipped and ready on parade. Colenel Dixon, the colonel of the battalion—the men having formed in line—inspected every company, and expressed his satisfaction at their appearance.

Shortly before seven, the word of command was given to fall in, and march in open column; and, precisely as the clock struck seven, the gates were thrown open, and the advanced guard approached, which was the signal for one burst of hearty and vociferous cheering from the vast crowds outside, which was continued until the whole battalion had emerged from the barracks, and had reached the enclosed esplanade of Buckingham Palace. On the entrance of the troops, her Majesty, accompanied by her Royal Highness Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, Prince Alfred, and Princess Alice, appeared on the balcony in the centre of the palace, and was received with loud and repeated cheering. As soon as the entire battalion had entered the inclosure, they formed in line, and presented arms, the band playing "God Save the Queen," amidst loud and continued cheering, H.R.H. Prince Albert and the young Princes being uncovered. Her Majesty repeatedly bowed in acknowledgment. The command to recover hands having ran through the line, the entire battalion, at a signal from Col. Dixon, took off their bear-skin caps and gave three loud and hearty cheers, which her Majesty, evidently delighted with the novelty of the scene, frequently acknowledged. The officers in command then rode up in front and saluted her Majesty, when the order was given to march, the band striking up an enlivening tune. The battalion proceeded through the Mall, past St. James's Palace, to Pall-mall, the Queen and the Prince remaining until the whole had passed.

As the crowd in the streets increased at every point, it was evident that the men could not arrive at the terminus at the hour fixed, and a telegraph message was sent from Buckingham Palace to the station to that effect. All through Pall-mall, Cockspur-street, Charing-cross, the Strand, to Waterloo-bridge, the crowd continued to increase and retard the march of the men, and many were the curious scenes on the part of women who saw husbands, lovers, and relations leaving them, perhaps, to return no more; and heart-rending and distressing it was in many instances to witness the look of sorrow and woe depicted on their care-worn faces. The crowd, however, cheered on; the men were all full of glee and hope, the band striking up several light and spirited airs.

From Waterloo-bridge to the station, an enormous crowd had assembled. It was here that the most painful part of the scene took place—in the parting of the women from their husbands. Notwithstanding the exertions that were made by the police, it was impossible to keep off the crowd, and after the first company had entered, the remainder had to be admitted in single file. As the men got into the carriages the band continued playing "Cheer, Boys, Cheer;" and on the signal for the train moving, struck up "God save the Queen"—the brave fellows departing amidst hearty cheers.

The platform was crowded with a large number of friends of officers proceeding with the battalion, and the railway officials. The number of men forming the battalion amount in all to 880, and the officers in command who accompanied them are—Colonel Dixon, Lieut.-Colonels Walker, W. J. Ridley, Hon. C. G. Scott, Fras. Seymour, C. A. Fitzhardinge Berkeley, J. H. Elphinstone Dalrymple; Captains H. P. Hepburn, Hon. W. F. Scarlett, G. T. F. Shuckburgh, J. D. Astley, W. G. Bulwer, D. F. B. Buckley; Lieuts. Fras. Baring, Seymour Dawson Damer, Seymour Blane, Viscount Eunismore, Hon. H. Annesley, &c. The final departure of the trains did not take place, in consequence of

the difficulty of the troops passing through the streets, until a quarter to nine o'clock.

EMBARKATION OF THE GUARDS AT PORTSMOUTH.

A large concourse of persons assembled at the South-Western Railway station, at Portsmouth, and along the line of the route thence to the dockyard, to witness the arrival and progress of the Scotch Fusilier Guards. A very large number of officers of both services, ladies, and civilians, were also in the dockyard, and the greatest possible interest was excited by the event. The special train conveying the troops was expected to arrive at ten o'clock, and by that hour the bands of the 23rd Scotch Fusiliers, 35th Regiment, 42nd Highlanders, and 79th Highlanders, had arrived at the railway station to escort them thence to the place of embarkation. Owing to the delay in marching through London, however, the troops did not start at the hour fixed, and, in consequence, the special train was some two hours behind its time when it reached Portsmouth. When it did arrive the Lieut.-Governor, Major-Gen. Simpson, and the officers of the staff and garrison, were in attendance; these officials, together with a number of friends of officers of the Guards, marching through the streets with them. The utmost enthusiasm was exhibited in their favour, the men themselves appearing to be in the highest spirits and efficiency. At the dockyard gates the crowd was exceedingly large, and the entrance of the troops into it was marked by loud and continuous cheering. It was with great difficulty the troops could force their way through the crowd here, the people crowding round them, and, not content with simple cheering, grasping them by the hand, and wishing them God speed in their enterprise.

In the dockyard the troops were told off into messes and marched on board the screw steam troop-ship *Simoons*, 18, Captain Smith, which was lying alongside the Dockyard Jetty, having taken the baggage and horses belonging to the battalion on board on Monday afternoon. The *Simoons* is an iron vessel of 2000 tons burthen, with engines of 250-horse power, and was built at Glasgow in 1849. She was intended for a steam-frigate, but iron being pronounced unsuitable for a man-of-war, she was devoted to the conveyance of troops to and from the colonies, and has performed that service most successfully.

EMBARKATION OF THE 93RD HIGHLANDERS.

The 93rd Regiment (Sutherland Highlanders) were inspected on the Hoe, Plymouth, by Major-General Sir Harry Smith, Commander-in-Chief of the Western District, previous to their embarkation for the East, in the presence of a large concourse of people, who loudly cheered the soldiers. They were afterwards formed into square, and General Sir Harry Smith then addressed them as follows:—

Highlanders—On Monday you will embark for the purpose of meeting the enemies of your country. Soldiers have nothing to do with the cause of quarrels; their duty is to fight. But in this instance you have a most noble cause to fight for. I mean the protection of the weak by the strong. This is the cause that you will fight for, and nobly will you and the rest of the army do your duty. You will be led by Lord Raglan, a man who was on the right hand of the Duke of Wellington, a man who knows how to lead you to glory as well as you know how to fight to attain it. One thing I desire to impress upon you, and that is to be good comrades to our gallant allies—the French. I say "gallant" most truly, for they were once our foes; now you are to fight side by side with them, and I would rather fight along with them than with any other soldiers in the world, because they will never desert you. Your conduct, Highlanders, under my command, has been like that of every British regiment, and I never saw a British regiment that would not fight. I will answer for it that you will. There is one thing that I would urge upon you. We, soldiers, are well provided for by our country, but the unfortunate inhabitants of the country where war is carried on are ever in a state of misery. Let no man's hand be turned against the people of the country, but protect the weak against the strong. Colonel Ainslie, I wish you and these Highlanders every success, as well as the army generally. If I am not with you, my heart is with you, and it beats to that impulse which may be felt now by every British soldier who has to fight in the good cause of the Queen and glorious England.

The soldiers then gave Sir Harry three times three cheers, after which the people vociferously applauded the military as they marched by.

The embarkation of the regiment, which took place on Monday, drew together an immense crowd. The distance from the citadel at Plymouth, to the gates of the Royal William Victualling-yard at Stonehouse, is nearly a mile and a half, and along the entire route thousands of people had assembled some hours previous to the time fixed for the regiment taking its departure; and as the gallant Highlanders passed, their hearts must have been cheered by the strongly-marked sympathy evinced by the cheering of the crowd, and the waving of the handkerchiefs of the ladies who gathered at the windows in the line of march.

Walking by the side of the soldiers, however, were many women, whose tearful eyes and sorrowful countenances betokened that it was a sad day for them, separated as they were about to be—perhaps for ever—from their husbands and sons. The soldiers marched steadily on, preserving the utmost order in the midst of the general excitement, and enlivened by the spirit-stirring music of their own band, as well as of the bands of the Royal Marines and 20th Regiment. The spectacle presented within the Victualling-yard was striking in the extreme. Many thousands of persons had been admitted, and lined the extensive wharves which surround the Government offices and storehouses. The weather was very fine, and numberless boats and vessels studded the water of the beautiful harbour of Hamoaze. Whilst the soldiers were embarking, the bands played "The Girl I left behind me," "Oh! Susanna, don't you cry for me," and some favourite Scotch airs, including, "Auld Lang Syne," "Scots, wha hae wi' Wallace bled," &c.; and as the steamers moved off and rounded the point opening into Plymouth Sound, the cheering was continuous and enthusiastic.

The *Himalaya* remained in the Sound until Tuesday morning, when she took her departure.

STAFF OF THE TURKEY EXPEDITION.

The following is a list of the staff of the army proceeding to Turkey, so far as the appointments have been made up:—

General Commanding-in-Chief, General Lord Raglan, G.C.B. Military Secretary, Lieutenant-Colonel Steele, Coldstream Guards. Aides-de-Camp: Major Lord Burghersh, Unattached; Lieutenant-Colonel Somerset, Coldstream Guards; Captain Kingscote, Scots Fusilier Guards; Lieutenant Hon. Somerset J. G. Calthorpe, 8th Hussars.

Lieutenant-General, Sir George Brown, K.C.B. Aides-de-Camp, Captain Alex. Macdonnell, Rifles Br.ade; Captain E. A. Whitmore, 20th Foot; Lieutenant Pearson, 7th Foot (extra).

Major-General, H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge, K.G. Aides-de-Camp, Major the Hon. J. Macdonald, Unattached; Captain Clifton, 7th Dragoon Guards; Lieutenant-Colonel Lord W. Paulet, Unattached (extra).

Brigadier-General, J. W. Bentinck, Coldstream Guards; Aide-de-Camp, Lieutenant Hon. H. Byng, Coldstream Guards; Brigade Major, Captain F. C. A. Stephenson, Scots Fusilier Guards.

Brigadier-General, Sir Colin Campbell, K.C.B., Unattached; Aide-de-Camp, Captain Shadwell, 19th Foot; Brigade Major, Captain Sterling, Unattached.

Brigadier-General, W. Eyre, C.B., 73rd Foot; Aide-de-Camp, Lieut. L. Graham, 43rd Foot; Brigade-Major Hon. A. Hope, 60th Foot.

Brigadier-General Airey's Staff has not yet been completed.

THE SECOND DIVISION FOR THE EAST.

The following regiments are under orders to prepare for their departure to the Mediterranean as a second instalment of troops for Turkey:—The 1st Foot (Royal Regiment), the 7th Royal Fusiliers, the 19th Foot, the 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers, the 88th (Connaught Rangers), the 95th Foot. The 8th Hussars and 17th Lancers are likewise under orders. In addition to the above regiments we understand that the 79th Highlanders at Portsmouth have received a letter of readiness. It is also said that the 30th, 41st, 44th, 47th, 49th, and 55th Regiments go from Gibraltar and Malta to Turkey. This will amount to about 10,000 effective men for the second division of the army.

THE SUPPLEMENTAL ARMY ESTIMATES.

A supplemental estimate of the charge which will probably be incurred for the pay, clothing, and incidental expenses of an augmentation of 15,000 of all ranks, and of the general and medical staff required for foreign service, has been issued. The additional numbers to be voted are 15,000 men of all ranks. The additional charge will be, for the land forces, £500,000; for the staff, £70,000; making the total additional charge to be voted £570,000. Including this augmentation, the numbers and charge for army services, 1854-55, will be 4598 officers, 8988 non-commissioned officers, 114,391 rank and file, making 127,977 men of all ranks; the charge for which will be £6,857,486, being an increase on last year of £832,470.

ALLIANCE OF THE FOUR POWERS.

It is positively stated that the treaty of adhesion of Austria and Prussia to the policy of the Western Powers is not only concluded, but actually signed. The sense of the treaty is said to be to this effect:—Austria and Prussia will maintain strict neutrality, but a neutrality to the advantage of the Western Powers; Austria will consent to occupy the provinces that will be pointed out to her, and establish an army of observation on the frontiers against the Russians; but she will avoid coming into immediate collision with them as long as possible.

THE FINAL MESSAGE TO THE CZAR.

The Governments of England and France have resolved to address to the Emperor of Russia a formal summons, calling upon him to give, within six days from the receipt of that communication, a solemn promise and engagement that he will cause his troops to evacuate the Principalities of the Danube on or before the 30th of April. The couriers who are the bearers of this despatch from London and Paris started on their journey on Monday morning. They will pass through Berlin and Vienna, whence, it is understood, that similar demands will be forwarded at the same time by the Cabinets of Prussia and Austria. The refusal on the part of Russia to comply with this just demand, or to return a fitting answer, will be regarded by the Powers as a declaration of war. It is calculated that this communication will reach St. Petersburg in nine or ten days. Very possibly the Emperor Nicholas will not avail himself of the formal term of six days which has been extended to him, as there can be no doubt of the purport of his answer; but, at any rate, in less than three weeks that answer will be known, and the forces of the allied powers, which are, in fact, already on their way to their respective destinations, will, by that time, be in a position to commence immediate hostilities.

CABINET COUNCILS.

One of the first extraordinary circumstances attending a state of war took place on Sunday last. The business must have been indeed urgent, and the matter pressing and important, which could have induced the Earl of Aberdeen to summon a Cabinet Council on the Sunday. The Ministers met on that day by appointment at the Earl of Clarendon's, and remained in deliberation for some hours. A Cabinet Council was held also at the Foreign-office, Downing-street, on the afternoon of Saturday. The Ministers present were—The Earl of Aberdeen, Lord John Russell, the Marquis of Lansdowne, the Lord Chancellor, Earl Granville, the Duke of Argyl, Viscount Palmerston, the Earl of Clarendon, the Duke of Newcastle, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir James Graham, Sir Charles Wood, the Right Hon. Sidney Herbert, and Sir William Molesworth. The council sat two hours. Another Cabinet Council was held at the Foreign-office on Wednesday, at three o'clock.

THE BALTIC FLEET.

That portion of the naval forces which is already completely ready for active service will shortly assemble in the Downs, under the command of Admiral Sir Charles Napier, and proceed early in March to the Kattegat, where it will await the opening of the Baltic, which is seldom accessible for maritime operations before the latter part of the month of March, so that the presence of the fleet of the shores of the Baltic will coincide in point of time with the period at which the definite answer of the Emperor of Russia to the ultimatum of Europe can be received. The Russian Baltic fleet consists of three divisions of about nine line-of-battle ships each, which are now lying in the three naval ports of Revel, in Esthonia, Helsinfs, in Finland, and Cronstadt—all within the Gulf of Finland. Of these three stations Revel is commonly free from ice ten days or a fortnight before the upper part of the Gulf, and it is of course important that the divisions of the Russian fleet which are thus separated, should not be able to unite under the guns of Cronstadt. Helsinfs is protected by the fortifications of Sweaborg, built on three islands opposite the mouth of the harbour, and mounting 800 guns, with barracks and casemates for 12,000 men.

A banquet will be given to Sir Charles Napier, before his departure, by the members of the Reform Club. Commodore Michael Seymour, Captain Superintendent at Devonport, has accepted the post of Captain of the Fleet, under Vice-Admiral Sir C. Napier.

It is currently rumoured that the fleet about to leave Spithead for the Baltic, will, before its departure, be joined by the French squadron; and that there will be a Royal review of both fleets in the Channel.

The Court leaves London on the 9th inst. for Osborne—a fact which seems to give probability to the above rumour. It is also said that the authorities of the great naval arsenal of Portsmouth had a preliminary meeting on Tuesday, to arrange a plan for giving a grand entertainment to the officers of the French fleet on its arrival.

ADMIRAL CORRY'S SQUADRON.

This force, consisting of her Majesty's ships *Duke of Wellington*, 131; *Prince Regent*, 90; *St. Jean d'Acre*, 101; *Impérieuse*, 51; *Arrogant*, 46; *Tribune*, 30; *Amphion*, 34; *Valorous*, 16; and *Odin*, 16, is now anchored at Spithead. The squadron has come home under easy sail, and been well exercised in gunnery, at night quarters, in seamanship, &c., on the way, and the crews of the several ships are in first-rate condition. The *Odin* made Spithead first about six o'clock on Wednesday morning, and Captain Scott immediately landed with despatches for the Admiral relative to the departure of the fleet, which hove in sight a little after twelve, noon, and was up at Spithead by half-past one. The squadron now there comprises:—

St. Jean d'Acre (screw), 101 guns.	Amphion (screw), 34.
Prince Royal (screw), 91.	Tribune (screw), 30.
Impérieuse (screw), 51.	Valorous (paddle), 16.
Arrogant (screw), 46.	Odin (paddle), 16.
Odin (paddle), 16.	

at Constantinople. The nomination of Marshal de St. Arnaud to this important command makes the immediate appointment of another Minister of War absolutely necessary; and General Randon, the present Governor-General of Algeria, has been summoned to Paris by telegraph. For the present he will only be appointed Minister of War *ad interim*. General Pelissier, who it was in the first place intended should take the important post of *chef de l'état major* of the Commander-in-Chief of the expeditionary army, is to be the Governor-General of Algeria.

Steamers are being prepared at Toulon for taking on board several regiments of cavalry. The workmen at the arsenal are employed night and day.

THE TURKISH ARMY UNDER OMER PACHA.

The *Soldaten Freund* of the 22nd February contains some interesting information from the seat of war, from which we learn that Omer Pacha's great object has been to form three army-corps, with their head-quarters at Karassu, Sistow, and Widdin; each corps to consist of 24 infantry battalions, 30 squadrons of cavalry, and 60 guns, in all respects well appointed. The effective force of each corps is 26,000 Nizam (regulars), 18,000 Redifs (militia), and the auxiliary contingents of Egypt, Bosnia, the Herzegovina, and Albania. Egypt has sent excellent and well equipped regulars, the other provinces only irregular troops. The reserves form the second or Balkan army. The strength of the army now under Omer Pacha is said to be not far short of 220,000 men, and although it is far from being all that could be desired, the spirit with which it is animated is excellent.

The news of the insurrection of the Christians in Epirus had produced an alarming effect on the Arnauts and Albanians on the Danube, who loudly demanded permission to return home. The Generals of Brigade, Hussein Bey and Soliman Pacha, had lost all their influence over their wild troops, and it was feared that, if an attempt was made to detain them by force, there would be an open mutiny; while if they were permitted to return, they would ravage the Christian districts on their way home. The attention of the Turkish army was, therefore, for the moment, more directed to the movements of the Greeks, Servians, and Montenegrins than to those of the enemy on the left bank of the Danube. If the hostile movement of the Christian population in the west should assume more formidable dimensions, the west wing of the Turkish army would be obliged to make a retrograde movement, which would more than counterbalance the check which the Russians have received by the entry of the allied fleets into the Black Sea.

The powerful batteries constructed by General Schilder, on the island of Radovan, between Glurjevo and Rustchuk, were said to have silenced the batteries of 36-pounders on the right bank. There is a ford below Glurjevo, and close to this General Martinez had formed a strong *tête-à-pont*; but strange to say, the Turks had neglected to take any precautions against a passage of the river at that point, although it was understood that the Russians were fully prepared to attempt it as soon as the fine weather sets in. Omer Pacha had gone to Sophia. The loss of the Russians in officers has been so great that General Schilder has ordered changes to be made in their uniforms, so that they may not be so easily distinguished from the common soldiers.

RUSSIAN PREPARATIONS FOR WAR

The advices from St. Petersburg reach to the 18th ult., and do not inspire any hopes of peace. The most absurd exaggerations, manufactured by Government, are given of the ardour of the people. One Russian patriot is reported to have presented the Emperor with 18 millions of silver roubles (nearly £3,000,000!) for the purposes of the war. The rate of exchange continued with a declining tendency, and it was expected that an order prohibiting the exportation of bullion would be issued in the course of a week. In the recent interview of the British residents with Sir Hamilton Seymour, after the suspension of diplomatic relations, they were told that they would have, for the present, the Danish Minister as intermediary.

All the naval officers who had been pensioned off are summoned to resume active service. The marines on furlough are already collecting at the different harbours assigned to them. They are under orders to be perfectly armed and equipped by the middle of March. Both the army and fleet in the south are being provisioned on a colossal scale. According to a report from the foundries of Lagun projectiles to the amount of 900,000 lbs. are to be sent to Taganrog in March or May. The magazines on the coasts of Mingrelia, Guria, &c., are being stocked in an equal degree with flour, groats, biscuit, and the like.

The *Invalide Russe* publishes the following usake of the Emperor of Russia:—

We, Nicholas I., &c.—Our manifesto of the 1st of August last established the order for the annual levy of troops in our empire. Considering that, in consequence of circumstances of war, it is indispensable to maintain our army and our fleet on a war footing, and to have reserves ready, without being incessantly obliged to complete the active parts of the army, we ordain:—1. A levy of nine men per thousand shall take place in the western governments of the empire, in virtue of the ukase addressed to the directing Senate under this day's date. 2. This levy shall commence on the 1st of March and terminate on the 15th of April, 1854. 3. Whereas the citizens of the governments of Witebsk, Mohilev, Kieff, Povolzia, Volhynia, Minsk, Grodno, Vilna, and Kowno, have, as regards recruiting, been assimilated to the other divisions, a levy of nine men per thousand shall also take place there. 4. The Jews subject to recruiting shall furnish ten men per thousand. 5. The governments of Cherson, of the Crimea, as also of Bessarabia, which are in a state of war, are exempt from recruiting.—Given at St. Petersburg, Feb. 10, 1854.

(Signed) NICHOLAS.

The levy just ordered will yield about 200,000 men. The districts or parishes that have to furnish the recruits, and not the latter, are bound to pay ten silver roubles per man. They have, therefore, 2,000,000 of silver roubles for a contribution, which must be added to what they already had to pay last November.

The official *Journal de St. Petersburg*, of the 16th ult., announces the rupture of diplomatic relations between Russia and the Western Powers, in the following terms:—

The Governments of England and France have pretended not only to protect the Turks against all attacks by sea on the part of Russia, but also to assist them in provisioning their ports, at the same time forbidding Russia to victual its own forces; in a word, depriving her, if need be by force, of free navigation in the Black Sea. The attitude thus taken by the two Powers constitutes, in the eyes of the Emperor, not only a serious infringement of his belligerent rights, but moreover, an effective co-operation in a war, of which they had until lately remained spectators. His Majesty has deemed it right from this day forward to protest against such infringement, reserving to himself that line of conduct which shall become him in future contingencies. Meanwhile, he has judged that provisionally the position in which his representatives at Paris and London have been placed could not be any longer reconciled with that which he owes to himself, and with those relations which, however delicate they have become of late, had, nevertheless, not yet lost entirely the nature of mutual friendship and good-will. In consequence, Baron Brunnow and M. de Kisseloff, acting on the order which they had received from him, eventually demanded their passports immediately on receiving the answer made to them, and have just quitted England and France. Diplomatic relations being thus suspended between Russia and the two Governments, Sir H. Seymour and the Marquis de Castelbajac are likewise on the eve of quitting St. Petersburg.

The regiments in the army of the Czar which bore the names of the Austrian and Prussian Sovereigns have been commanded to change their designations. The Military Commissioner or Envoy of Russia, who has habitually resided at Berlin, is ordered to join his regiment on duty; and Russian officers are not to wear Austrian and Prussian decorations.

THE CZAR AND THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR.

The Russian courier, with intelligence of Baron Brunnow and M. de Kisseloff having actually demanded their passports, arrived at St. Petersburg four-and-twenty hours before the French and English couriers, with instructions to the representatives of those Powers to demand theirs. The consequence was, that the Emperor acted on the intelligence brought by his courier, and, without permitting the time to pass which would have allowed of the arrival of the French and English couriers, sent their passports to Sir Hamilton Seymour and General de Castelbajac. Another account, in the *Independance of Brussels*, states, that the Emperor made a great distinction between the French and English Ambassadors. Sir H. Seymour was told immediately that his passports were ready—which was equivalent to desiring him to leave with all possible haste. Nothing of this kind was done with General Castelbajac; and the latter, wishing to convince the Emperor that if he had carried his politeness and attentions to the Russian aristocracy farther than Sir H. Seymour had done, he was not the less disposed to do his duty, informed Count Nesselrode that he wished to be treated as his colleague, for they represented Governments whose policy was the same. The Emperor, however, sent word to General Castelbajac, that he wished to see him before he left, and the General having complied with his wish, the Emperor decorated him with the order of Alexander, with his own hand.

THE EXPECTED BATTLE AT KALAFAT.

The last accounts from Constantinople show that the same anxiety is felt there as here with regard to the next move of the Russian forces against Kalafat. A letter from Constantinople, of the 18th ult., says:—

We are anxiously awaiting the result of the battle which is expected to take place at Kalafat. Military men see the importance of that position, and all feel instinctively that the fate of the imminent campaign will mainly depend on the maintenance of that post. The main importance of Kalafat lies in the fact that its position covers Servia; whilst many persons attach a great value to its possession by the Turks, because it shuts up the way that, by Sofia, leads to the southern extremity of the Balkan and to Adrianople. To look upon things from these points of view, with reference to Kalafat, would, however, be putting aside the real principles of war. The Russians could not throw a division of their army into Servia without dividing their forces. You cannot threaten the flank or rear of an enemy, either on the field of battle or in a strategic line, unless you feel certain of a victory in front. The Russians have not more forces disposable on the Danube than the Turks; they cannot therefore feel certain of victory; consequently the result of the principal operations would be compromised, were they to move into Servia with considerable forces, by giving their enemy an advantage which is frequently only the result of well-calculated and able manœuvres, namely, of being placed between two portions of their forces with the bulk of his army, and thus able to fall upon either separately, and at the moment he deems most propitious. The fear of an advance by Sofia, across the Balkan, by a large Russian force, is very general. However, any person who is at all acquainted with the principles of strategy knows that these apprehensions are vain. There can be no doubt that Kalafat will decide the campaign of this spring, by the moral effect of a defeat or a victory with either army, in the event either of the Russians being driven back, or the Turks ejected from their entrenchments.

FAREWELL ENTERTAINMENT TO THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE.

A sumptuous entertainment was given to the Duke of Cambridge, at White's Club, St. James's-street, on Saturday last. Though the Duke of Cambridge has not been nominated, at present, to any command at the seat of war, yet it is well known in military circles that he is included in the arrangements for carrying on operations in the East. The banquet was laid in the drawing-room of the club-house, the usual dining-room being too small to accommodate the number of distinguished guests invited. Throughout the whole length of the festive board was displayed a superb collection of plateaux, épergnes, salvers, racing-cups, candelabra, &c., the magnificent workmanship of which well became the costliness of the material—in all cases either solid gold or silver. The banquet was fixed to take place at eight o'clock, and shortly before that hour the guests commenced arriving. The Duke of Hamilton occupied the chair. On his right was his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, and on his left the Duke of Montioli. After the banquet, in the course of the speeches made during the evening, the subject of the approaching war was freely alluded to, and at such times the cheering was enthusiastic. The members of White's Club have not given a banquet since 1814, when they had the Emperor of Russia (Alexander) and the King of Prussia for guests. The distinguished party, which included many members of both branches of the service, separated shortly before midnight. The members of Brookes's, following the example of White's, will give a grand banquet this evening (Saturday) to his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge. It is hoped that Lord Raglan will also be present at the entertainment.

MORE STEAMERS FOR GOVERNMENT.

The Admiralty have chartered the *Queen of the South* for the conveyance of troops to the Mediterranean. This fine steamer—which is of 1800 tons burden, and 300-horse power, arrived at Southampton on Monday, from India and the Cape, and was intended to leave again for that destination on the 14th of March. She will now be coaled, and got ready for sea without delay; and other arrangements will have to be made for the Cape and India mail line. Probably the *Propontis* may be sent in her place, unless that ship should also be required by the Government. Immediately on the arrival of the West India mail steamer *Magdalena* from the West Indies and the Gulf of Mexico, that vessel will discharge cargo, receive coals, and be prepared for the embarkation of a regiment with the smallest possible delay. The *Magdalena* will be able to carry from 1000 to 1200 men, and *Queen of the South* probably from 700 to 800.

GREENWICH PENSIONERS ONCE MORE AFLOAT.—It speaks well for the spirit of the British tar, that neither years nor infirmities can quench his ardour, nor extinguish that love of country, which was his guide in early life. As an example of this, about a hundred of the inmates of Greenwich Hospital, nearly all over sixty years of age, and some exceeding the limits allotted to man, "threescore years and ten," volunteered to serve in her Majesty's vessels, in the approaching war with Russia. And although the services of but few of them have been accepted, we doubt not that a ship manned by the gallant old fellows, even now, would be able to give a good account of the enemy. Several of the most active will be discharged in a few days, at their own request, to join her Majesty's ships and the coast-guard.

STATE OF THE BALTIC.—According to the latest advices, the Baltic ports are not yet free from ice; but in some cases vessels have been laden with corn at considerable expense across the ice, and the latter has subsequently been cut away so as to permit the ships to put to sea. The Baltic shippers are very anxious to get their corn safely on this side, under the apprehension that difficulties may hereafter arise to shipments being made.

ALL General and Staff Officers on the Expedition are to wear blue frock coats, without any decoration or distinguishing mark. The purpose of this is to render them less conspicuous objects for an enemy's rifle.

THE FIRST DIVISION OF TROOPS FOR THE EAST.

The organizing and dispatching of a force of from 24,000 to 25,000 of our best soldiers, to be engaged in repelling the aggressions of Russia upon Turkey, have naturally drawn attention to the fine condition of the troops selected for this service, which may fairly be designated the flower of the British Army. With a view of illustrating their efficiency, our Artists have represented upon the two following pages a series of Portraits from eight of the finest Regiments of Infantry, sketched from the life; to which we append a series of brief sketches of their history and services.

FIRST ILLUSTRATION.

Private 1st Grenadier Guards—Marching Order.
Colour Sergeant—Coldstream Guards.
Private Night Sentinel.
Drummer—Royal Scots Fusiliers.
Private—Royal Scots Fusiliers. Barrack Guard Order.

THE GRENADIER, COLDSTREAM, AND SCOTS FUSILIER GUARDS.

Since the formation of disciplined regiments, every nation has established a Guard, whose high prerogative has been the honour of attending on the Sovereign. In bygone days the "Gards du Corps" of the French, the "Guards de la Cavelier" of the Spaniards, and the "Heiogard" of the Germans, assimilated in some essentials with the modern household troops of England. In Russia the Imperial Guard counts many thousands; ours is restricted to three regiments of cavalry and seven battalions of foot. The latter portion of this force during periods of peace has advisedly been concentrated in the vicinity of the Royal palaces, and exempted from colonial service. But when, as at present, the probability of war almost reaches a certainty, the colours of the English Guards are unfurled, and their battalions gallantly take post wherever danger threatens; and those who, a few days since, beheld these magnificent troops marching through the streets of the metropolis en route for the place of embarkation, will not readily forget the heart-stirring scene. The estimation in which the Guards are held by their countrymen was demonstrated on that morning.

When the Parliamentary forces were disbanded at the Restoration, the Duke of Albemarle's regiment was alone kept on the establishment. It was raised at Coldstream during the Civil Wars, and has ever since retained its appellation. The origin of the Foot Guards may be dated from 1660. The first regiment was commanded by Lord Wentworth: the Coldstream, as already shown, by Monk; and the Third by the Earl of Linlithgow. When the Duke of Monmouth invaded England, the Guards highly distinguished themselves in the west under the Earl of Feversham. In the reign of William III., these regiments were frequently in the field, and reaped honour and renown in Flanders. Voltaire celebrated their heroism at the battle of Fontenoy, fought in 1745. Their presence and example were of infinite importance at the epoch of the Scotch rebellion. During the Seven Years' War, the Guards, as usual, craved for themselves opportunities, whereby to enhance their reputation; and at the affair of Saint Cas, they were the last to embark, and had the honour to cover the retreat. On that occasion they suffered severely. They were employed in the American War, where their proverbial utility was again made conspicuous. At the battle of Lincelle, the Guards obtained, and well merited, eulogistic praise. Their more recent exploits are equally recorded to their honour. "Corunna," "Talavera," "Barossa," "Peninsula," and "Waterloo," emblazoned on the silken folds of their banners, bear evidence of hard-fought fields, where the Guards struggled in friendly emulation with their brethren of the line for supremacy in daring and undaunted defiance of the foe. History has recorded the unflinching courage they displayed at Hougoumont. Again and again attacked by superior num-

bers, and at one period without ammunition, the unsurpassed intrepidity of the British Guards triumphantly held the post. Nothing could shake their indomitable perseverance. They were commanded to keep the position, at whatever cost, and nobly they responded to the order.

At this moment three battalions of the Queen's Guards are ploughing the waves of the Mediterranean, anxious to encounter the enemy, and enthusiastic in a good cause. Should opportunity offer of adding distinction to their already established renown, those who hereafter may carry the colours may find cause to murmur at their predecessors' valour, by reason of the additional weight of recorded victories gorgeously emblazoned on their ensigns.

SECOND ILLUSTRATION.

Recruiting Sergeant, 33rd Regiment.
Private, 3rd Buffs—Marching Order.
Private, 3rd Buffs—Undress.
Private, 9th Regiment—Marching Order.
Private, Rifle Brigade.
Private, 33rd Highlanders.
Private, 55th Regiment.

33RD—THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT.

It would be difficult to point out a regiment of more hardy enterprise and uniform steady valour, than the 33rd. It has served with distinction in nearly every portion of the globe, and was ever ready for action when required. One of the last acts of King William III., was to issue directions for raising this battalion, together with eight others. It was formed in 1782. The first officer appointed to the command was Colonel Stanhope, and the force was speedily engaged against Cadiz and Vigo under the Duke of Ormonde. At the siege of Valenta, in 1705, it was the only British regiment engaged. Colonel Duncanson bravely led the corps to the top of the breach, where he was wounded, but his followers finally made themselves masters of the place. It fought nobly at the sanguinary battle of Almanzor. In 1742 the battalion formed part of the expedition which landed near Bruges, under the direction of the Earl of Stair; and in the following year was present at the Battle of Dettingen. It was in the heat of the conflict, and lost a considerable number of men, together with five officers. At the famous but fatal encounter at Fontenoy, upwards of 600, including all grades, were thinned from its ranks. For a long time the 33rd was known as Wade's regiment; but, in 1758, it was designated Haye's, in honour of Lord Charles Haye, its then Commander. This efficient corps continued four years at Minorca, and afterwards sailed as part of the grand expedition under Marlborough against Saint Malo. It bore a conspicuous part in the attack and destruction of Cherbourg; and, on re-embarkation, in Saint Cas Bay, nearly the whole of the Grenadiers, together with their Captain, were numbered with the slain. The regiment was afterwards actively engaged in Germany, where it served various campaigns, and largely shared the fortune and glory of the army under Prince Ferdinand and the Duke of Marlborough. In 1776 the corps sailed for America, and was in the attack of Fort Washington; and maintained its well-earned reputation in the performance of the active duties devolved on the British forces in that country. It participated in the victories at Cambden and Guildford. In Holland and the Netherlands this renowned corps gained additional honour, and displayed its accustomed daring at the attack of Tuy, under General Dundas. Honourable mention of the gallant bearing of the 33rd constantly found a conspicuous place in the despatches of the period. The late Duke of Wellington commanded it when in India, where it was instrumental in the overthrow of Tippoo Saib and the capture of Seringapatam. Waterloo bore testimony to the crowning exploit of the battalion in 1815. After the decease of the great warrior of the age, her Majesty was graciously pleased to direct that the 33rd should henceforth be styled "The Duke of Wellington's Regiment," and carry the hero's crest and motto on its colours.

THE 3RD FOOT—EAST KENT—THE BUFFS.

General Sidney had first the honour to command this distinguished regiment. In 1665 the corps was placed on the regular establishment of the English army. At that period the 3rd was the only battalion whose sword-belts, pouches, and other appointments were made of buffalo leather, after the manner of chamois. Officers and privates wore waist-coats and breeches of that colour. Eventually other corps adopted similar facings; whereupon the regiment became known as the "Old Buffs." This splendid body of men possess the privilege of marching through the city of London with fixed bayonets, drums beating, and colours flying, without observing the customary formality of requesting the Lord Mayor's permission; a privilege which, however valuable it may be, has not been offered many opportunities of being tested. Various assertions have been hazarded, assigning causes originating this exclusive favour; but, unless the archives at the Mansion-house can enlighten the army, it will prove difficult to trace the exception to its real source.

In Queen Anne's reign the "Old Buffs" served as part of the Confederate Army in the Netherlands, and did good service. It was highly commended at the battle of Ramillies in 1706, and formed part of the covering force when Prince Eugene besieged Lisle in 1708. In 1745 the regiment was at Falkirk. At Culloden, the 3rd mainly contributed to the annihilation of the Pretender's forces. The Buffs encountered considerable hardship, privation, and loss, at Guadalupe, Grenada, and other West India islands from 1758. Many subsequent opportunities of demonstrating what Englishmen can achieve were seized upon by this gallant corps. On their colours the words "Douro," "Talavera," "Albuhera," "Pyrenees," "Nivelle," "Peninsula," and "Punniar," evidence their fame. The head-quarters are at present at Malta, and it is rumoured they will proceed with the force destined for the seat of war. Should such anticipation be verified, the "Old Buffs" will, in due time, return to England laden with additional laurels, but not before the tree has become so denuded of its leaves as to render it impossible to gather fresh garlands from the stem.

THE 9TH (EAST NORFOLK) REGIMENT OF FOOT.

This corps was raised in 1685, and ranks as one of the finest in her Majesty's service. To elucidate what British soldiers can accomplish, in defiance of danger, privation, and fatigue, the reader cannot do better than refer to Mr. Cannon's "Historical Records," commemorating the deeds of this battalion, and the numerous actions wherein it was engaged. An accurate detail of its services will there be found; together with highly interesting facts, which the limits of a newspaper cannot possibly embody. Indeed, if an attempt were made to recount the innumerable acts of bravery and heroism displayed by each regiment, the result would fill a library. The 9th claim the honourable badges of "Roliere," "Vimiera," "Corunna," "Busaco," "Salamanca," "Vitoria," "Saint Sebastian," "Nive," "Peninsula," "Cabool, 1842," "Moodkee," "Ferozeshur," and "Sobraon."

1ST GRENADIERS,
MARCHING ORDER.COLDSTREAMS,
NIGHT SENTINEL.COLDSTREAMS,
COLOUR-SERGEANT.SCOTS FUSILIERS,
DRUMMER.SCOTS FUSILIERS,
BARRACK GUARD.

BRITISH INFANTRY.—GUARDS.—(SEE PRECEDING PAGE.)

RECRUITING SERGEANT,
33RD, DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT.3RD, BUFFS,
MARCHING ORDER.9TH REGIMENT,
MARCHING ORDER.

RIFLE BRIGADE.

93RD HIGHLANDERS.

55TH REGIMENT.

BRITISH INFANTRY.—(SEE PAGE 187.)

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—MONDAY.

WAR WITH RUSSIA.

The Earl of ELLENBOROUGH asked whether it was the intention of Government to take any measures to prevent the Russian fleet from leaving the Baltic, and perhaps materially interfering with our foreign commerce across the Atlantic.

The Earl of ABERDEEN could not suppose the noble Earl expected an answer to his question, for such an answer could be only serviceable to the enemy. He should consider it his duty not to answer any question respecting contemplated naval or military operations. As for the Russian naval force, it was a grievous mistake to suppose that it was unwatched.

Lord ELLENBOROUGH could not give Ministers credit for activity and watchfulness, till he had seen more satisfactory evidence of those qualities than they had yet exhibited. He thought it was discreditable for a country like England to enter upon a war with little more than a peace establishment. Ministers tried to persuade the country that it would be a little war, when it would be one of the greatest in which this country ever was engaged.

The Marquis of LANSDOWNE denied that the Government had ever looked at the impending war as a little war; and if the noble Earl knew a little more than he appeared to know of the preparations which had been made for that great war, and the manner in which those preparations had been conducted, he would not entertain such an opinion.

AMENDMENT OF THE COMMON LAW.

The LORD CHANCELLOR called attention to the second report of the Common Law Commissioners, and laid upon the table a bill founded upon the report, after having explained to their Lordships the nature of its provisions.

After some commentaries upon the subject by Lords Brougham and Campbell, the bill was read a first time, and was ordered for second reading, with an understanding that it should be referred to a select committee.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MONDAY.

ARMY ESTIMATES AND THE BUDGET.

Lord J. RUSSELL announced that the supplementary Army Estimates would be laid upon the table on Tuesday, and taken into consideration on Friday; and on the Monday following the Chancellor of the Exchequer would place before the House the state of the national finances.

RUSSIAN SHIPS CHARTERED BY BRITISH MERCHANTS.

In reply to questions from Sir W. Clay and Mr. M. Gibson, Lord J. RUSSELL said, the Sultan had permitted Russian vessels chartered by British merchants with corn from the Black Sea to pass the Bosphorus and Dardanelles. The British Government had been applied to for a similar protection from British cruisers, and had required a list of the vessels, upon which they had received the names of four. As to all other vessels, and as to rights of neutral vessels to convey goods, not being military stores, free, the subject was one of delicacy, and was under consideration; but the decision of the Government would be announced before any declaration of war.

THE DISASTER AT SINOPE.

Sir M. WILLOUGHBY called attention to the destruction of the Turkish flotilla at Sinope, on the 30th day of November, 1853. The hon. baronet contended that, as Turkey had been prevented from sending her fleet into the Black Sea, the French and English authorities became morally responsible for the safety of the Turkish ships already there, and yet it appeared that this massacre was suffered to take place. As early as the 5th October, 1853, Lord Stratford de Redcliffe declared that unless the naval aid of the country was cordially and frankly given to the Turks the Russians would succeed. Lord Clarendon anticipated that on the 7th October, when he informed Lord Cowley at Paris, and, on the 8th, Lord Stratford at Constantinople, that the British squadron was to come up to Constantinople, adding, of course, if the Russian fleet came out of Sebastopol, then the British fleet was to pass into the Black Sea. He asked the right hon. gentleman to explain how it was that the Russian fleet having come out of Sebastopol the British squadron remained at the mouth of the Bosphorus? On the 8th of October, Lord Clarendon wrote to Lord Stratford to instruct Admiral Dundas to inform the Russian Admiral at Sebastopol, that if the fleet came out of that port his orders were to protect the Turks and their territories from all overt acts of hostility. That was fifty-three days before the destruction of the fleet. Was that instruction ever carried out at all? The importance of that instruction was very great, because if the Russians had been informed of that arrangement their coming out to attack the Turkish fleet would have been a direct act of defiance. He had on a former occasion asked the noble Lord the member for the City of London whether there was any despatch showing that that instruction had been carried out, and the noble Lord, who generally answered with much skill and tact, said that the instructions had been triumphantly carried out by Capt. Drummond in the *Retribution*. The noble Lord in making that statement must certainly have forgotten all the dates. It was long after, and in consequence of the destruction of the fleet of Sinope, that the *Retribution* was sent. Three months nearly had elapsed from the time the instructions had been sent out before they did that which, if it had been done in time, might have prevented the whole mischief. He wished the right hon. gentleman to state why that important instruction had not been carried into effect before? If it had, not only would 4000 men have saved their lives (a greater number than were put to death in any of their great naval engagements), but it would probably have prevented them being involved in war. In the middle of November, two Turkish steamers were taken by the Russians in the Black Sea. They had a powerful fleet moving about; and he wanted to know what the British fleet were about all that time at the mouth of the Bosphorus? They would not allow the Turkish fleet to go out; and perhaps they exercised a wise discretion. The Turkish fleet was destroyed owing to that policy, and the Blue-Books left it wholly and entirely unexplained. After the disaster, two frigates were sent to ascertain what had occurred; and suppose they had found the Russian fleet there, would they not have had to turn tail, and return to Constantinople?

Sir J. GRAHAM contended that the blame of the unfortunate affair at Sinope was attributable to the Turkish squadron itself, which had remained five weeks at Sinope, doing nothing but tempting, by its defenceless position, the Russians to attack it. The hon. gentleman complained of the delay in sending the combined fleet into the Black Sea, and he had endeavoured to explain that before, when he had the honour of addressing the House. Power was given to the English Ambassador to communicate these instructions to the Russian naval commander at Sebastopol. He had stated that Lord Stratford exercising a discretion on the spot, and before the affair at Sinope had taken place, the message had not been communicated by the British Ambassador at Constantinople. The hon. gentleman said the Blue-Books offered no explanation as to the result. With reference to that very point, he would refer him to the despatch of Lord Stratford of the 5th of December, in which he stated that the unfortunate catastrophe was owing altogether to the neglect, the culpable neglect, of the Turkish commander. It was evident that three weeks before it occurred the British Admiral had warned the Turkish authorities of the danger to which the squadron was exposed. The order was revoked subsequently which would have saved the ships, and he must be excused for saying, that although the disaster was lamentable in the extreme, yet all the blame in respect of it must be wiped away from the British authorities. In consequence of that disaster, an order as unequivocal and distinct as could be given was issued to prevent any aggression by the Russian fleet, even before any declaration of war, and no Russian ship of war would be permitted to navigate the Black Sea without being opposed by the British and French fleets; and he again repeated his confident expectation that when vigour and decision were required they would not be wanting on the part of the British and French fleets.

Sir De L. EVANS thought the statement of the right honourable Baronet entirely exonerated the British Government. He begged to ask the right hon. Baronet whether he had observed it was stated three or four days before this affair, in a despatch from the Consul at Trebizonde, that two Russian war-steamer had appeared off that port?

Sir J. GRAHAM said our screw-ships and steamers had visited every port of the Black Sea—Varna, more than once; Sebastopol; the coast of Circassia—but, with the exception of three small Russian ships at Sebastopol, they had seen nothing of Russian ships of war.

Admiral WALCOT had always been of opinion that a vigorous policy was best calculated to avert war, and, when it was begun to bring it to a successful and speedy termination (Hear, hear); while a timid policy was certain to be disastrous (Hear, hear). With reference to the affair of Sinope, it appeared that the Turkish Government had applied for the protection of the allied fleets, but that the French Admiral had declined

to sail to their assistance, though Admiral Dundas was of a different opinion. It was to be regretted that the fleets had not gone, as they could have prevented the catastrophe of Sinope.

Mr. H. DRUMMOND said, that unprofessional members should be cautious of giving opinions upon naval or military matters. He had himself been sailing, some thirty years ago, with Admiral Dundas in the Mediterranean, on which occasion he said to him (Mr. Drummond), "I shall one day be an admiral, and shall be sailing over the very sea we are now on. I shall have more arrogance to endure when that time shall arrive from ignorant parties at home than from the enemy; and you will be called upon to defend me." This prophecy occasioned great laughter.

Lord D. STUART said he believed the order to return into port had been disregarded by the Russian vessels of war, and had not been enforced by the allied fleets. Such was the nature of the information which had reached him from the seat of war. Russian ships had not only been at sea, but had actually bombarded St. Nicholas, and other places.

Captain SCOBELL defended the course pursued by Admiral Dundas.

THE NAVY ESTIMATES.

After a brief discussion, the whole of the Navy Estimates were passed without a division.

THE ORDNANCE ESTIMATES.

Mr. MONSIEU moved the Ordnance Estimates, which, in the aggregate, amounted to £3,845,878, being no less than £792,311 over the Estimates of last year. Looking at the recent display of activity in the Ordnance department, as contrasted with what it had been enabled to effect on former occasions, the hon. gentleman congratulated the country upon the efficiency of the department, which, though calling for an increased estimate at present, would lead ultimately to a great saving. The factories at Enfield and Birmingham were to be abolished, and a large factory was to be erected near Woolwich to supply their place, which would release the Ordnance from the difficulties it experienced in dealing with private gunmakers. With such a factory it would be unnecessary to keep up such large stores of guns and bayonets as had heretofore been considered necessary. It was anticipated that the Minié rifle, which was at present £3, would be diminished to £1 8s. The total saving upon muskets of every kind for all branches of the service would be about £727,500.

Mr. MUNZT undertook to prove, if the factory proposal were suspended for two months, that the Minié rifle could not be manufactured at the price stated by the hon. gentleman.

A discussion ensued as to the expediency of the Government becoming manufacturers at all, beyond the point of establishing a check against contractors, and ultimately the vote for the establishment of a gun manufactory was postponed for a month at the suggestion of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The Chairman soon after reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—TUESDAY.

THE MILITIA.

The Earl of ABERDEEN said that the Government intended this session to introduce a bill to modify the existing law respecting the militia in England, so as to extend it to Ireland and to Scotland, and to give power to raise in Ireland 30,000 men, and in Scotland 10,000. But it was not intended to embody the Irish militia in the present year.

LANDLORD AND TENANT BILL.

The Earl of DONOUGHMORE moved the second reading of the Leasing Powers (Ireland) Bill, and the Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Bill, which he said were almost identical with the measures that had passed through a second reading last session.

There were five other bills on the paper relating to the improvement of the law of landlord and tenant in Ireland; and, after considerable discussion, it was arranged that they should all of them be read a second time, and referred to a select committee.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY.

MONASTIC INSTITUTIONS.

Mr. T. CHAMBERS moved for a select committee to inquire into the number and rate of increase of conventional and monastic institutions in the United Kingdom, and the relation in which they stand to existing law; and to consider whether any, and, if any, what further legislation is required on the subject. He deprecated the idea of treating this as a religious question; he wished it to be considered entirely as a political and a social one. The great increase in the number of these establishments demanded that they should be in some way placed under the supervision of the law. In 1843 the number of conventional establishments in the kingdom was 56, and ten years later, in 1853, they had increased 400 per cent, being no less in number than 208. It was also to be remarked that this increase was not to be spread equally over the ten years—or the contrary, every year accelerated that increase; and, as to monasteries, they had increased in Ireland during the same ten years from 60 to 72, or 20 per cent. The establishment of these monasteries was in open violation of the act of 1829, and should as such be dealt with; but there was no relation between convents and the law—a state of things which should no longer be allowed to exist. They should at once be brought within the pale of the law, with a view to put a stop to the restraint placed upon ladies in these institutions. The hon. and learned gentleman quoted a great many cases of restraint as well in Roman Catholic convents as in the establishment of Miss Sellon, in Plymouth. Those Roman Catholic convents were affiliated with others abroad, and by this means they were enabled to add the punishment of transportation to the imprisonment and tortures which they could inflict at home.

Mr. NAPIER seconded the motion. He thought that an inquiry should be instituted to ascertain what course was proper to be pursued under existing circumstances.

Mr. J. BALL could see no occasion for a select committee. The information on the subject was patent to everybody.

Mr. R. POTTER quoted the authority of Sir John Forbes, physician to her Majesty, as to the utility of conventional establishments in educating the Catholic children of Ireland. If the Government did not discourage such a motion, they would do a greater amount of mischief in Ireland than could be easily conceived.

Mr. R. PHILLIMORE thought an inquiry might be useful, but not if the ladies in convents were to be brought before a committee of that House. He believed in his conscience that it would be greatly for the benefit of the Roman Catholics not to oppose this motion, for he was confident that their conventional establishments had nothing whatever to fear from the strictest inquiry.

Mr. F. AGAN said it was impossible the House could grant this committee without hearing one single fact or argument on which to ground it.

Mr. E. B. ROCHE, as an Irishman and a Protestant, would oppose the motion, which in the present state of the country was ill-timed and in bad taste, at a moment when Dr. Wiseman had issued a pastoral letter to the Roman Catholics of this country, filled with loyalty to her Majesty.

Lord C. HAMILTON supported inquiry. The shrinking sensitiveness betrayed by those who were opposed to inquiry was calculated to make one imagine that there was something to be concealed.

Mr. J. PHILLIMORE hoped the House would not assent to the motion of Mr. Chambers, which was insulting to every one who professed the Roman Catholic religion.

Mr. MAGUIRE said that the bill of the hon. and learned gentleman was felt to be so insulting to the Roman Catholics of Ireland, that it would not be very safe for him to make a tour of that country as its author.

Mr. W. RUSSELL bore his testimony to the utility of these convents in rearing the children in their neighbourhood to habits of industry, and giving them a good education. He hoped the House would reject the motion by a large majority.

Mr. MIAU denied that there were facts to justify inquiry, or that legislation could provide a remedy.

Mr. COWAN supported the motion. He was surprised at the silence observed by the Government, which he hoped would be broken.

Lord J. RUSSELL had but little to say upon the subject. If he believed that personal liberty was denied to those who wished to use it, he would then say there was an undoubted case for inquiry. But this he did not believe, for neither English, Irish, nor Scottish Roman Catholic gentlemen would suffer their daughters and sisters to be ill-used in such institutions. Was it to be supposed that none but Protestant gentlemen could be found to interfere on behalf of those Roman Catholic ladies; and, was it not an imputation upon the Roman Catholics to hold out that it became necessary for Protestants to protect those whom they left exposed to such privations and persecutions. He would give his hearty and decided negative to the motion.

Mr. WALPOLE thought it was a mistake not to have established a committee of inquiry long ago, having for its object to ascertain the

exact position of the Roman Catholic religion, both as regarded its relation to the law and its relation to foreign countries. He was prepared to vote for the motion, deeming it of great importance that monastic institutions should be examined into. It was intended by the Catholic Relief Act that these institutions should be extinguished, but that act had never been attempted to be carried out by any succeeding Government; and he believed that some inquiry was now necessary to ascertain whether they should not be at all events subjected to control, if not extinguished.

Mr. J. FITZGERALD contended that the law as it at present exists was amply powerful to meet and redress the evil.

Lord E. HOWARD opposed the motion, quoting passage from letters to show that the inspection of nunneries in Papal countries scarcely existed.

On a division, the numbers stood—For the motion, 186; Against it, 119: majority for the motion, 67.

NEWSPAPER STAMP RETURNS.

Mr. CRAWFORD moved for returns of the number of stamps issued to each newspaper in England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales during the years 1851, 1852, and 1853.

The motion—which was supported by Mr. DISRAELI and Mr. GIBSON, and opposed by Mr. WILSON and the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER—was ultimately agreed to.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—WEDNESDAY.

LEGAL EDUCATION.

Mr. NAPIER moved for an address for a commission to inquire into the arrangements in the inns of court for promoting the study of law and jurisprudence, the revenues properly applicable, and the means most likely to secure a systematic and sound education for students of law, and provide satisfactory tests of fitness for admission to the bar. The hon. and learned gentleman dwelt on the importance of securing for the public a liberal and enlightened education for persons allowed to practise as barristers. This became the more important when it was recollect that they were called upon to fill situations of the highest responsibility. When he came over to London to eat his dinners for the Irish bar he consulted a very learned member of that bar what course of reading he would advise him to pursue. He replied that if the Irish bar were his object, he should read himself up in "Joe Miller" for he would get more business by cracking jokes than by the most profound knowledge of his position. The system of education was not calculated to raise the profession in public estimation; and some alteration should be made in the proceedings of the inns of court, which were in fact trustees for the public, that barristers should be well educated. They were somewhat in the light of universities for the study of the law, and it would be for the benefit of the public that they should act up to the spirit of that trust. The universities had recently adopted very considerable reforms, and the inns of court ought not to be behind the spirit of the age. Voluntary lectures would be by no means sufficient, unless accompanied by periodical examinations. He thought the appointment of a commission of enlightened and learned men would be likely to adopt a sound system of legal education.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL, the SOLICITOR-GENERAL, and several other members spoke in favour of the motion, which was agreed to.

(Continued on page 197.)

THE BLUE-BOOKS ON THE TURKISH QUESTION.

(Continued from page 151.)

The views entertained by the French Government on the mission and demands of Prince Menschikoff, appear clearly enough in the following documents, which we extract from those published in the *Moniteur*, subsequently to the issue of the English Parliamentary Blue Books:—

TO COUNT WALEWSKI, AMBASSADOR AT LONDON.

Paris, Feb. 21, 1854.

Monsieur le Comte.—The question of the Holy Places tends, in spite of our efforts, to issue from the limits in which we could have wished to confine it, and it is of extreme importance that the Cabinet of London should not further mistake the character and object of our negotiations. I therefore invite you to communicate to Lord Clarendon the despatch which I wrote on the 25th January last to General de Castelbajac; and it will be easy for him to see that we have never pretended to demand for the Latin Fathers of the Holy Land advantages at which Russia can seriously be alarmed. I hope also that the new Principal Secretary of State of her Britannic Majesty will appreciate the conciliatory nature of the proceeding which I have ordered the Minister of the Emperor at St. Petersburg to adopt, and will admit, whatever may be his opinion on the origin of the discussion, that we have honestly endeavoured to appease it. I regret to tell you, Monsieur le Comte, that our overture has not produced the results which I expected. It is not a basis of conciliation which would replace the Catholic Church at Jerusalem in an inferior and humiliating situation, and would do the greatest injury to our considerations in the Levant. If we had dispossessed the Greeks—if we had demanded and obtained the complete execution of the capitulations of 1743—if the concessions which have been made to us excluded in any degree whatsoever advantages which the Eastern Church enjoys, we might, no doubt, have alleged our rights; but we should have understood that Russia, if necessary, would have carried things to an extreme to defend the religious interests, intimately bound up with her political interests. Thanks to our moderation, Monsieur le Comte, the question is not laid down in such terms; and that is what you must endeavour to make Lord Clarendon understand. In presence of the complications which may arise in the East in consequence of the mission of Prince Menschikoff, we should not understand, I avow, that, in a cause so just, so moderate as that which we support, we could not count on the impartiality of the other Cabinets, and that false prejudices (*fausses préventions*) should prevent them from recognising on which side is right. I will add, Monsieur le Comte, that this right is at present identified with the dignity and independence of the Porte itself, and that, if the Government of the Sultan were constrained to submit to the exigencies which are put forward, France would not alone have to regret such a result.

Accept, &c.

DROUYN DE LHUY.

TO COUNT WALEWSKI.

Paris, March 19, 1854.

Monsieur le Comte—I hasten to send you, for your information, a copy of the despatch which I received this morning from M. Benedetti, on the events which are taking place at Constantinople, and of the circumstances which have caused Colonel Rose to summon the English fleet. Although at present we do not know if the Government of her Britannic Majesty approves the determination of its agent, and if Admiral Dundas has thought right, or considered himself at liberty, to obey the invitation without referring to London, the Government

military, on a very great scale, unmistakably with the view of overcoming Turkey's independence, or making war on her.

I learnt from Lord John Hay that Admiral Dundas proposed to leave Malta on the 20th inst., on a cruise to Corfu, Athens, and Smyrna. By asking him to bring his squadron to Vourla immediately, I felt that I only asked him to leave Malta a week earlier than he had intended to do, going first to Vourla instead of Corfu.

Under these circumstances I acquainted the Grand Vizier that I would request the Admiral commanding at Malta to bring up his squadron to Vourla Bay.

Unfortunately, the British Government did not approve of the vigorous policy recommended by their able servant, neither did Admiral Dundas feel himself justified in taking so important a step without special instructions from the Foreign Office. Lord Clarendon, in acknowledging, on 23rd March, the receipt of the despatch from which we have just quoted, informs the Colonel, "that the circumstances did not, in the opinion of her Majesty's Government, render it necessary for you to request that the British fleet should come to Vourla, and they have entirely approved of the conduct of Admiral Dundas, in not complying with your request. His Lordship added that Admiral Dundas had been ordered to remain at Malta.

The next despatch which we shall quote, is a highly suggestive one. It expresses, as it well might, the Czar's satisfaction, that the British fleet had not been ordered up to Constantinople: a step which we cannot help thinking would, if it had been taken, have materially altered the state of affairs, and prevented the occupation of the Danubian Principalities. It will be remarked that Count Nesselrode treats the question of the approaching passage of the Pruth by the Russian armies, as an "idle rumour, destitute of any sort of foundation," though he must have well known that the aggression was at that moment determined upon by his Imperial master, if it had not been actually ordered. Diplomatic perfidy offers no parallel to the conduct of the Russian Chancellor, in this, as well as in other stages of these transactions.

COUNT NESELRODE TO BARON BRUNN.

Communicated to the Earl of Clarendon by Baron Brunnow, April 15.

(Translation.)

St. Petersburg, March 26 (April 7), 1853.

M. le Baron.—I hasten to acquaint your Excellency with the sincere satisfaction with which the Emperor has read your despatches of the 11th (23rd) instant. They inform us that the British Government has not only approved of the refusal of Admiral Dundas to comply, without express orders from London, with the summons which the English Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople had sent him to repair with the English fleet to Vourla, but has come to the determination of leaving this fleet at Malta, and of awaiting with confidence the development of the negotiations commenced by Prince Menschikoff with the Ottoman Porte, and not complicating them by joining in the hasty demonstrations which the French Government has thought fit to prescribe to its squadron.

Sir H. Seymour, on his part, has lately communicated to me the despatch which Lord Clarendon, the new Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, had addressed to him on the same subject. It confirms, in all points, the intelligence which you send us.

It has given us much satisfaction, M. le Baron, to perceive, as well by this despatch as by the summary of your communications with the British Ministers, that all the false reports spread at Constantinople in regard to our intentions had caused no alarm or apprehension to the Cabinet of London, satisfied by the personal assurances which it has received on this matter from the Emperor, that his Majesty's desire and determination are to respect the independence and the integrity of the Turkish empire: and that, if his views in this respect should undergo any change, our august master would be the first to apprise the English Government of it.

You will assure the Ministers of the Queen, in the most positive terms, that the intentions of the Emperor are still the same; and that all the idle rumours to which the arrival of Prince Menschikoff in the Ottoman capital has given rise—the occupation of the Principalities, territorial aggrandisement on our Asiatic frontier, the pretension to secure to ourselves the nomination of the Greek Patriarch of Constantinople, hostile and threatening language held to the Porte by our Ambassador—are not only exaggerated, but even destitute of any sort of foundation; that, in a word, the mission of Prince Menschikoff never has had, nor has now, any object but that which your Excellency has been instructed to communicate to the British Government.

As regards the recommendation which is given us to humour as much as possible the susceptibilities of France in the delicate question of the Holy Places, and whilst insisting upon the rights of the Greek Church, to endeavour to impose nothing upon the Latins which might too directly wound the honour and the interests of that Power, you may equally assure the English Ministers that, in the arrangement to be negotiated, it is not a question of withdrawing or of taking from the Latins the concessions which they have obtained by the Ottoman note of the 9th of February of last year, but merely of adapting those concessions to the stipulations of the Hatti Sherif, by removing from them anything they may contain of an exclusive character; of obtaining for the Greeks some recompence for the wrong which has been done them; and, above all, of securing them from further injury.

In general, we ask nothing better than to come to a friendly understanding with the French Government, taking into account the position in which it has placed itself, although all the concessions that can be made to its susceptibility have almost invariably the effect of rendering it more exacting, inasmuch as it looks upon them in the light of a success which justifies it in seeking to obtain more. But it must itself contribute to facilitate for us the means of doing so, instead of acting in a contrary sense, as it has just now done with so much precipitation by a demonstration, the consequences of which may place in antagonism our desire for conciliation and the protection of our own dignity. The English Government must themselves see that France is not always accessible to councils of moderation, since the wise representations which they made to her through Lord Cowley have not availed to prevent the departure of the French squadron.

The Emperor desires you, M. le Baron, to thank Lord Aberdeen and Lord Clarendon very particularly in his name, for the salutary impulse which they have recently given to the decisions of the British Cabinet. The former has on this occasion shown us a new proof of confidence, of which our august master is highly sensible. The latter, with whom our relations have hardly yet commenced, thus enters upon them under auspices which justify us in hoping that they will be of the most satisfactory nature. In relying upon our assurances, in refusing to follow France in a step, if not hostile, at least marked with distrust towards us, England, under present circumstances, has performed an act of wise policy. Nothing would have been more to be regretted than to see the two great maritime powers combining together, were it but for the moment, and in appearance rather than in fact, upon the Eastern question as it now stands. Although their views in this respect differ in reality *toto coto*, nevertheless, as the European public is by no means competent to draw the distinction, their ostensible identity would not have failed to represent them under the aspect of an intimate alliance. The ardent spirit of France would eagerly have exaggerated, for the advancement of her own interest, these fresh evidences of cordial understanding, and everything in Europe might at once have been placed in a false position. The simultaneous appearance of the two fleets would have prevented the possibility of the question being solved at Constantinople. It would have placed us in a position in which we could not have acquiesced, and which would no longer have allowed the Emperor, thus exposed to a demonstration of a threatening nature, freely to follow his own pacific and conservative impulses.

France acting alone, the measure is attended with less inconvenience, although it is still far from being free from it. The Emperor accordingly attaches but little importance to it; and his Majesty sees in it no reason for changing, at the present time, his previous views and intentions. The attitude of England will suffice to neutralize what, on the part of the French or the Turks, if the latter should feel encouraged by the presence of the French fleet, might embarrass or retard too long the favourable solution of the question in dispute. In this point of view Lord Aberdeen appears to us to have fully understood the important part which England had to play; and we are happy to congratulate him upon it, persuaded beforehand of the impartiality which he will display in carrying it out.

As regards yourself, M. le Baron, you have on this occasion left nothing undone to promote the vast interests which our august master has entrusted to you. His entire approbation has honoured the efforts which you have made, and the arguments which you have employed, to strengthen and confirm the English Ministers in the just opinion which they have formed of our political intentions.—I have, &c.,

(Signed) NESELRODE.

THE LATE BREAD RIOTS AT EXETER.—Actions will be brought at the ensuing assizes, to be held at Exeter, for the recovery of the damage sustained by some of the bakers during the late bread riots in that city. In one case the damages have been laid at £500, the plaintiff having demanded that amount from the hundred of Wonford, in which he resides. The claim is resisted by the hundred, and two eminent counsel are already engaged for the defence. The damage sustained by the various sufferers in the county is estimated at between £1,000 to £2,000. The bakers in the city do not claim more than £200, for which they will shortly apply to the magistrates for an order for payment. At the same assizes about forty prisoners, from various parts of the county, will be tried for taking part in the riots.

CHESS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

C. A. M., St. Bees.—1. The White pieces, as you have arranged them, certainly command every square on the board; but we doubt if this could be effected without the assistance of the King. 2. The grades are very numerous. The best way to ascertain your own status is to join the St. George's Chess-club, and cross Pawns with some of the crack players there. You will find where you stand then.

J. C., Calcutta.—Your letter of the 19th of December has just come to hand, and shall have immediate attention.

CIVIS.—The splendid Chess salon at the "Wellington" restaurant in St. James's-street, is now open, and you may enjoy your game with some of the best players in London every evening, unlooked for by the "silling sharks" who infest the other dives you mention.

IRATUS.—We are glad to see that the whole correspondence between the seconds relative to the proposed Match between Mr. Staunton and Mr. Harrwitz, is given in the March Number of the *Chess-Player's Chronicle*, and trust it will be disseminated widely. To prevent confusion in the minds of those who read it for the first time, it may be well to remark that the paragraph "A. Mr. Harrwitz, immediately upon receiving the letter forwarded by Mr. Staunton, has despatched with all speed to the Continent, Mr. H. Bishop" addressed the following note to the person with whom it was pretended Mr. H. had despatched £25 towards his portion of the stakes" has been misplaced by the printer, it should follow, not precede, Captain Evans's letter, No. 9.

JACOPO.—It reflects very great credit on the "two beginners."

J. H. of Bridport.—The solution required has been sent you by letter.

V. H. de L.—The promised packet was duly despatched by the channel indicated, and should have reached you on the 3rd ult.

M. F. (a foreigner)—You have not quite succeeded in solving No. 522. Try once more without looking at the solution we have given.

SNOWMAN.—If White undertakes to Mate Black with a "capped Pawn," and the latter succeeds in taking that Pawn, he is usually considered to have won the game.

F. R. of B., CAROLUS of Dundee, Signor A.—Your problems are now under examination, and shall be reported on next week.

A. K.—No. 1 is clever. The others have been returned for the reasons specified on the back of the diagrams.

M. M. V.—Your King having "checked" is now back to his Castling.

H. K.—See notice above to M. M. V.

A. F., Aberdeen.—Probably from "Sheik-nat"—the Sheik, or King, is dead.

SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM NO. 522, by Inverlith, Deny of Magdalen; H. C. S., of Cambridge; Sir August, German, Phiz, O. P. Q., are correct.

SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM NO. 523, by Ajax, Memphis, F. R., of D. Somper Eadem, Felix, T. J. of Haworth; Morgan, M. B., D. B. S., Mercator, O. P. Q., Lynx, Czar, D. D., are correct. All others are wrong.

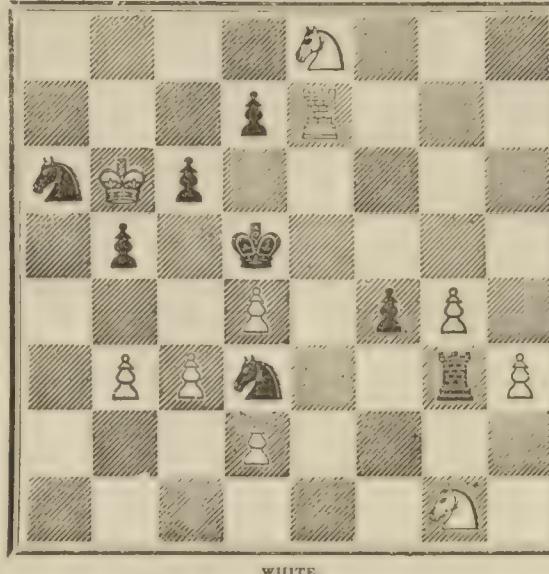
SOLUTION OF PROBLEM NO. 523.

At the request of several correspondents, we withhold the solution of this clever stratagem for another week.

PROBLEM NO. 524.

By Mr. H. E. KIDSON.

BLACK.



WHITE to play, and mate in five moves.

CHESS IN THE METROPOLIS.

In the following lively game, lately played at the St. George's Club, Mr. STAUNTON gives the Pawn and two moves to the Hon. H. T. LIDDELL, M.P.:—

(Remove Black's K B Pawn from the Board.)

WHITE (Mr. L.)	BLACK (Mr. S.)	WHITE (Mr. L.)	BLACK (Mr. S.)
1. P to K 4th		16. P to K 5th	17. P to Q Kt 4th
2. P to Q 4th	Kt to Q B 3rd	17. Kt to Q 6th (ch)	Kt takes Kt
3. Q B to K 3rd	P to K 4th	18. P takes Kt	Castles
4. P takes P	Q Kt takes P	19. Q B to Q 4th	Q B to Q Kt 2nd
5. P to K B 4th	Q Kt to K B 2nd	20. P to Q B 3rd	P to Q 4th
6. K B to Q 3rd	K Kt to K B 3rd	21. Q to Q B 2nd	Kt to K B 3rd (e)
7. K Kt to K B 3rd	P to Q B 3rd	22. Q R to K B sq (ch)	K R to his 3rd
8. Castles	B to K 2nd	23. r to K B 6th	P takes P
9. P to K R 3rd	P to Q Kt 3rd	24. Q R to K 7th	Q to K B sq
10. Kt to K B 5th (a) Q Kt to K R 3rd	P to K B 5th (c)	25. B takes K R P K to R sq	
11. P to K B 5th (b)	K Kt to K B 5th (c)	26. Q to K B 5th (g) P to Q B 4th	
12. P takes Kt	B takes Kt	27. Q to K B 5th (h) B to R 6th (ch)	
13. B to K B 2nd	Kt to K B 2nd	28. P to K B 2nd B takes R (ch)	
14. Kt to Q 2nd	Kt to K 4th (d)	29. Q takes B	P takes B
15. Kt to Q B 4th	Kt to K B 2nd		And wins.

(a) Threatening, if Black castles, to play the King's Pawn on.

(b) P to K 5th would now have been of little service, as the Black Kt could have removed to Q 4th, attacking the adverse Q Bishop, and gain time to protect the K Rock's Pawn.

(c) This relieves Black from a good deal of restraint.

(d) A good move, a long time; but, in reality, a necessary one, to prevent the White Knight being advanced to his K B 3rd.

(e) An over-bold manoeuvre, perhaps; for the on-coming of White's K B Pawn might have been prevented by playing the Bishop to K B 3rd.

(f) Had he taken the Rook, Black would have got a fine attack, although scarcely enough

to compensate for his deficiency in material. In that case, the following is a probable continuation:—

22. B takes R B to K 6th (ch)
23. K to K 8q Q takes B
24. K R to K B 3rd R to K sq

(This is better for Black than playing P to Q B 4th, because of White's then being able to reply with B to K 4th.) 25. Q R to K B sq P to Q B 4th—with a good game.

(g) Obviously an oversight. He should have taken the Q B Pawn with the Queen or Bishop, and then we doubt if Black could have recovered himself.

CHESS ENIGMAS.

No. 863.—By E. B. C., of Princeton.

White: K at Q B 4th, R at Q 7th and Q Kt 7th, B at K 8th, P at Q Kt 2nd.

Black: K at Q R 5th, R at Q R 3rd, B at Kt 8th, P at Q B 6th and Q Kt 8th, Kt at K 5th.

White, playing first, mates in four moves.

No. 864.—By Signor ASPA.

White: K at Q R 5th, R at Q R 3rd, B at Kt 8th and Q R 6th, Kt at K 2nd; P at K 4th, Q Kt 5th, and Q R 2nd.

Black: K at Q B 5th, Kt at Q R 8th; P at K 4th, Q 5th, Q B 3rd and 7th, and Q Kt 2nd.

White to play, and mate in four moves.

THE PROPOSED MATCH BETWEEN MR. STAUNTON AND HERR HARRWITZ.

After "exhausting almost every modicition" of concession with the hope of screwing his slippery opponent's courage to the sticking-place, Mr. Staunton has taken the very proper course of making public the whole correspondence between the respective seconds in the affair. The letters occupy several pages of the March Number of the *Chess-Player's Chronicle*, and are wound up by the following challenge, from which we see no possibility of Mr. Harrwitz and his supporters escaping, except by the admission, open or tacit, that what is generally believed to be the case is true, namely, that Mr. Harrwitz and his supporters accepted Mr. Staunton's challenge in the hope and belief that the challenger's state of health would not permit him to undergo the fatigues of a long Chess match; but, finding Mr. S. determined to do battle, they are obliged now to beat an ignominious retreat:—

"Mr. Staunton will undertake to play Mr. Harrwitz a match, at the St. George's Chess-club, and will stake £300 against £200 on the result; leaving all other conditions to be settled by Messrs. Lewis, Buckle, and Wyvill; if these gentlemen (who must be admitted to be three most distinguished and disinterested members of the European Chess circles) will kindly undertake the task; or, if more agreeable to Mr. H. S. supporters, he will play for the stake, and at the place they appointed, upon any terms the three gentlemen named shall dictate. Should the friends of Mr. Harrwitz accept this cartel, he proposes that each party stake immediately £50 in the hands of Mr. Lewis, as a guarantee of intention to play, according to any conditions which Messrs. Lewis, Buckle, and Wyvill shall stipulate; and that the Editor, on his own part, and the backers of Mr. Harrwitz, on the part of that player, shall sign an agreement, by which either party, in default of making good the remainder of the stakes, and playing the match at the time and upon the terms fixed, forfeits the £50 so deposited to the other party."

STAG-HUNTING.

THE stag hunting of modern times is as different from the sport of the same name in which our forefathers indulged, as grouse shooting from shooting pigeons out of traps, or tame pheasants in a battue. Nevertheless, modern Stag-hunting is not to be altogether despised when treated as an available resource for those to whom time is valuable, and a healthy gallop once or twice a week indispensable.

At the period when this country was covered with ancient forests, and when millions of acres, which have long yielded to the plough and the sheep, were open moorland, fox-hunting, except as a means of killing an inferior animal, by fair or foul means, was unknown, and Stag-hunting was a science in which it was indispensable that every true knight should be expert. The deer was tracked to his lair by scouts with slow, keen-scented hounds, and when roused, was pursued by a pack, partaking in their style of hunting more of the harrier than the modern foxhound, although of a larger and more powerful, and, consequently, less swift than any we now employ. Every stratagem to secure the death of the stag was considered fair, skilful woodmen held hounds in leash ready to be slipped, if the game should follow accustomed tracks, and the long-bow or the cross-bow was used without mercy if occasion served. In wild woods, and wilder heaths, every chance was on the side of the deer, and the huntsman, whether King or yeoman, was in danger of sleeping supperless if he failed to slay either hart or hind.

The deep tones of the slow hounds were essential to assist the huntsman in the pursuit, and a complete musical telegraph of notes on the bugle horn, communicated the nature of the animal raised and the state of the chase—in which the *mort* and hallooll held the place of our fox-hunting "who-who-ho."

In England Stag-hunting seems, if we may judge from what Gervase Markham says on the subject, not to have been much more esteemed in the beginning of the seventeenth century than hare-hunting. But those were degenerate days, when woodcraft was almost forgotten, and the "noble science" had not yet been devised; for fox-hunting in preference requires population and enclosed fields.

In one

S T A G H U N T I N G .



MEET AT GERARD'S CROSS.

Buck-hounds is an officer of State charged with each change of Ministry. The salary is £1500 a year; and that it is not considered an unimportant office may be judged from the fact that it was the first held by Earl Granville. The Queen's hounds hunt Middlesex, Bucks, and Berks. The principal meets are to be reached by the Great Western Railway. Faster hounds, or a more complete establishment, are seldom seen. Mr. Charles Davis, the huntsman, is still, after nearly fifty years in the Royal service, a horseman whom it is worth a long journey to see going. The greatest drawbacks with the Royal hounds are the large miscellaneous fields, which include every one from the Duke of Cambridge to the horse-dealing cad; and the number of roads by which the greater part of their county is intersected; along which the mere crowd pound away, and fancy they are hunting.

George III., who was an enthusiastic sportsman, kept a pack of slow fox-hounds. The memoirs of Madame D'Arblay are filled with the lamentations of those of his suite who were compelled to follow, without sharing the Royal taste for hunting. The Surrey stag hounds are a pack which partly occupies the country hunted over by the Earl of

Derby, the grandfather of the present Earl, when he lived at the "Oaks," which gave name to the Epsom race for fillies. The Surrey stag-hounds are strictly a subscription pack, the greater number of subscribers being gentlemen connected with commerce in the city of London. The meets are not advertised, and the presence of unknown strangers is not desired, for the very sufficient reason, that such unlimited miscellaneous fields as usually assemble near a great city, would soon consume any subscription fund in compensation to the farmers.

The country, with the exception of the flint district, is very favourable for sport, consisting partly of a light hilly sand, thinly inhabited, with few roads and light fences, interspersed with small plantations, and a succession of heaths or commons; and of a vale country divided into moderate-sized enclosures by fences as wide and deep as any in Leicestershire.

The "field," to those who are introduced, is particularly pleasant, as it partakes of the character of a social club, where every one knows every one. Those who are silly enough to share the old prejudices about Cockney sportsmen, will find that, wherever bred, they will

find plenty of work, if they wish to hold their place with a good deer before the Surrey stag-hounds, near Red-hill, or the meadows round Ewell. Mr. Heathcote, youngest son of the late Sir Gilbert, is the master of these hounds, and defrays a large share of the expenses of the establishment, which is in every respect well done. Croydon is the centre of this hunt, as well as of the Surrey foxhounds; and in Bignell's stables there are more than a hundred hunters, many of them of the first class, kept by gentlemen—of whom nine-tenths come down to hunt from London or its suburbs.

The second illustration is taken from a deer-paddock, at Mr. Heathcote's seat, Durdans, near Epsom—a place which figures in the gossiping annals of the time of Charles II.

Baron Rothschild hunts the country round Tring entirely at his own expense. We shall describe the country when we come to give an account of the fox-hounds of that district. It is sufficient to say that Tring is the station to which horses should be sent on, and that the London and North-Western grants every season passes, "for hunting purposes only," to Tring, at £10 each.



DEER PADDOCK, AT DURDANS, NEAR EPSOM.

PARLIAMENTARY PORTRAITS.

MR. SAMUEL LAING, M.P. FOR WICK BURGHS.

The "railway members" have so increased of late years in numbers and importance as to form a distinct class or section of the House of Commons, with a considerable and advancing influence. Among these Mr. Laing, the subject of this memoir, holds a distinguished position, as well from the prestige attending his name among those more immediately acquainted with his services in connection with railways, as from his past official standing and frequent manifestations of Parliamentary ability.

Mr. Laing is the son of Samuel Laing, Esq., of Papdale, in the county of Orkney, the author of "Travels in Norway" and "Notes of a Traveller;" and he is nephew of Malcolm Laing, the author of the "History of Scotland." After having undergone the usual scholastic preparations, he entered at St. John's College, Cambridge, in 1829, where he took his degree in 1832, being second wrangler and second Smith's prizeman. He was subsequently elected a Fellow of St. John's College, and he resided for some years in the University as a mathematical tutor. He was designed for the profession of an advocate; and, with this view, he entered at Lincoln's Inn, and studied for the Bar, to which he was called in 1840. One of those accidents, however, which so often influence the lives and determine the destinies of men, effected a change in his career. He accepted the post of private secretary to Mr. Labouchere, who was at that time President of the Board of Trade, and out of this connection grew his subsequent almost exclusive connection with railways. So much was this the case, that when the Railway Department of the Board of Trade was formed Mr. Laing was appointed secretary; and from that time he took an active part in all questions connected with railway legislation under successive Presidents of the Board of Trade—under Mr. Labouchere, the Earl of Ripon, Mr. Gladstone, and the Earl of Dalhousie. Some of the fruits of the experience he had thus acquired, he embodied in a "Report on British and Foreign Railways," which he published in 1844, and in the same year he gave evidence before a Committee of the House of Commons on the general subject of railways. It is honourable to Mr. Laing that to his suggestions and



MR. SAMUEL LAING, M.P. FOR WICK BURGHS.—FROM A DAGUERREOTYPE BY BEARD.

evidence was mainly due the establishment of the Parliamentary trains, which for the first time secured to the poorer classes a comparatively comfortable conveyance at a minimum rate of payment.

In 1845 Mr. Laing was nominated a member of the Railway Commission, presided over by Lord Dalhousie; and it is understood that he had a chief share in preparing the reports of the Commission on the railway schemes of that period of excessive speculation. Those reports were discredited at the time; but subsequent experience has proved that, had most of their recommendations been adopted, the country would have been spared much of the mischief that ensued from the over speculation of the year 1845, and the subsequent collapse. Nor is this all. A more judicious and systematic scheme of railway legislation would have saved a waste of capital, which Mr. Laing, in his evidence before Mr. Cardwell's committee of last year, estimated at little less than £70,000,000 sterling.



SCENE FROM "KING RICHARD THE THIRD," AT THE PRINCESS' THEATRE.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

Parliament, however, rejected the reports of Lord Dalhousie's Commission, which was consequently dissolved. Mr. Laing then resigned his post at the Board of Trade, and once more turned to the Bar as a profession. As a Parliamentary counsel he at once obtained considerable practice. But the prominence of his services in connection with railways, led to fresh relations with them. In the year 1848 he accepted the post of Chairman and Managing Director of the Brighton Railway Company, and since that date he has mainly devoted his attention to the management of that concern. By judicious arrangements he has so developed the traffic as to have materially improved the value of this line as a property. It is worth 40 per cent more than when Mr. Laing commenced his labours; and the dividend has advanced from 3½ to 5 per cent per annum. Owing to the facilities afforded, the number of passengers has in five years increased from two millions to four and a half millions.

This success, and his general position, warranted Mr. Laing in thinking of entering Parliament. A requisition having been sent from Kirkwall, his native borough, Mr. Laing became a candidate for the representation; and, after a severe contest with Mr. Lock, who was supported by the Duke of Sutherland's interest, he succeeded in beating his opponent by a large majority. Mr. Laing now resigned the managing directorship of the Brighton Railway Company; but he is still Chairman of the company. His railway operations have not been confined to England, but have extended to the Continent and our colonies. He was mainly instrumental in forming the Great Western Railway of Canada. He is also a Director of the Submarine Telegraph Company, and of the Grand Central and Grand Junction Railway Com-

panies in France, and of the Antwerp and Rotterdam, and the Sumhart Railways in Holland and Belgium. His name has been still more recently before the public as the Chairman and chief promoter of the Crystal Palace Company.

In politics, Mr. Laing is a Liberal, but he seldom displays any strong bias for party. He is, however, a steady supporter of the present Government, more especially of Mr. Gladstone's financial measures. It is mainly to Mr. Laing's exertions that the public are indebted for the total repeal of the Advertisement-duty. As a speaker, Mr. Laing is logical, lucid, and fluent, and he possesses the art of rendering even dry financial subjects interesting by his mode of treatment. He has also displayed considerable general Parliamentary ability.

HAYMARKET THEATRE.

MR. PALGRAVE SIMPSON'S amusing comedy of "Ranelagh" proves to be entirely successful; and certain abridgments which have been made in the earlier scenes are calculated to ensure a continuance of its well-deserved prosperity. This week we present an Illustration of the concluding situation of the first act. Sir Robert Rorely, tired of his concession to his amiable wife, and having received, through Dr. Coddlelove, those mysterious intimations from his *Florentina*, of the import of which the worthy physician is innocently unconscious—now totally indisposed to remain any longer at home—makes up his mind to a desperate determination; and, after a brief apology, hastens from the evening party in his wife's apartment. While the lady faints *Lord Prynting* exults—he is on the eve



SCENE FROM THE NEW COMEDY OF "RANELAGH," AT THE HAYMARKET THEATRE.

of his grand discovery—and, as the husband departs, turns round in his chair to pursue his victim with his taunting adieus.

The scene comprises Portraits of Miss Reynolds and Mrs. Fitzwilliam, Mr. Buckstone, Mr. George Vandenhoff, and Mr. W. Farren. The tableau has much novelty, and also much nature, as well as stage effect.

PRINCESS' THEATRE.

WE this week engrave an illustration of the manner in which Mr. C. Kean has produced "Richard III.," presenting an excellent Portrait of

the Actor in the part, when in the act of tempting Buckingham to the murder of the children in the Tower. The text has been somewhat here enlarged by Cibber, for the sake of affording the performer a wider scope for gesture, but most unnecessarily, if not injuriously. These exaggerations go far to damage the harmony of effect, and increase the differences between the Shakespeare and the Cibber portrait. The latter is an insatiate "butcher of silk buttons;" the former is an intellectual fiend. *Richard*, in the phase of his character intended by Shakespeare to be represented in this play, has passed beyond the necessity of being the homicide in his own person. He has the power to command others, and may rightfully, because Royalty holds the keys of death and life.

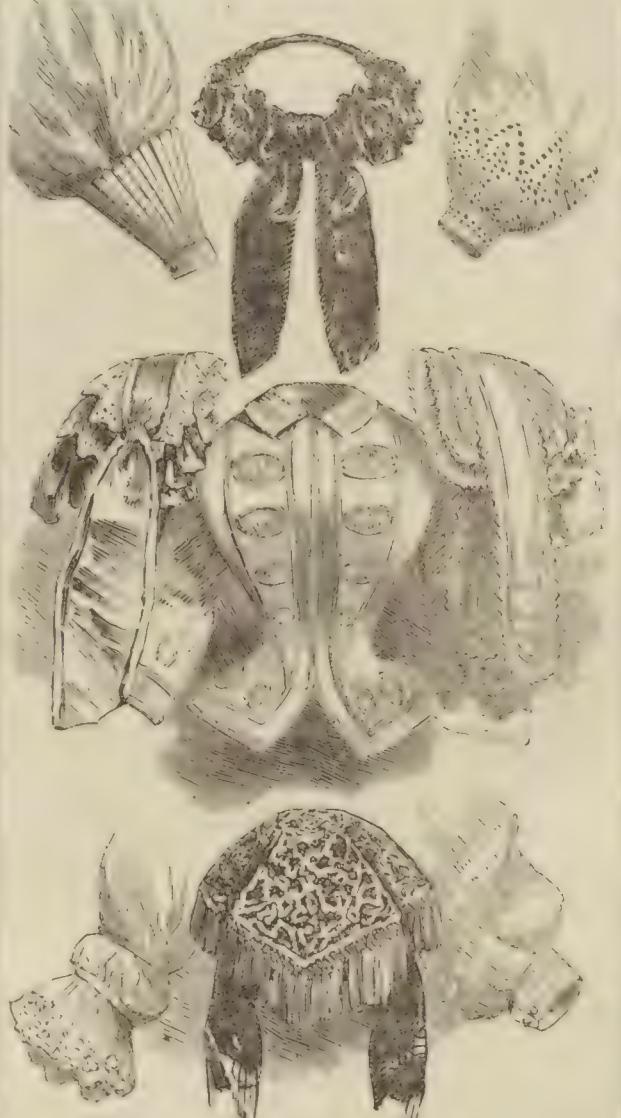
PARIS FASHIONS FOR MARCH.

THE present all-absorbing topic of dress is such articles as constitute the Costume for the Ball-room—as head dresses of flowers of gold, diamonds, &c., doubtless suggested by the balls at the Tuilleries and the Palais Royal, and these given by the high official dignitaries. Hence, visiting dress is comparatively little thought of, but fine weather will soon set our *modistes* thinking of Longchamps. However, we must not anticipate; but shall proceed to describe the Ball Costume most worn.

The dresses are mostly composed of taffetas, which assort well with the different kinds of ornamental trimmings, which are put upon it; it forms the ground, slightly coloured, upon which are displayed rich patterns of lace, and gold and silver arabesques of volants of muslin or silk gauze. At the last ball at the Tuilleries the Empress wore a dress of light blue colour, the trimmings of which were ornamented with pale pink flowers; moss-roses were distributed upon puffs (bouillons) of tulle reaching half way up the petticoat, and in the middle of each flower was a large diamond. The head-dress matched the skirt; between the bands were rows of diamonds, which were joined on at the back with bunches of roses. We should mention the novelty of ornamenting the upper part of the bodies of dresses with wreaths of flowers, and placing them round the sleeves, to match those of the petticoat. Bouquets of flowers are no longer worn upon the middle of the front of the body of the dress; neither are bouquets any longer carried in the hand. We regret the abandonment of the latter fashion; rare and odiferous flowers being preferable to smelling-bottles filled with essences extracted from flowers, and more or less adulterated—the



PARIS FASHIONS FOR MARCH.



PARIS FASHIONS FOR MARCH.

bouquets having the additional advantage of charming the eye with their beautiful colours.

Velvet has been replaced by handsome new materials, particularly watered silk of the old style. Taffetas, muslins embroidered in gold and silver, and in colours, and laces, are more especially suited for young ladies. Young unmarried ladies wear white guipure and tulle, or pink, blue, and plain, made with three volants, or two forming a train; with which are worn in the hair and on the arms large Venetian pearls. The hair is worn in bands, puffed or raised, and turned back; and through it is passed a string of diamonds, or a ribbon across the forehead; and a few others—English ladies only—among the frequenters of the Parisian balls, continue to wear long curl.

THE ENGRAVINGS.

Costume for the Theatre.—Dress of taffetas, with three volants trimmed with feather edging. Body open in front down to the waist, which allows to be seen the guipure embroidery and feather trimming, being Valenciennes lace, to match that of the under sleeves. Feather edging also ornaments the border of the sleeves, and the two seams up to the shoulder, inside and outside.

In-door Dress.—Dress of rep green or pearl-grey colour; the basques (or prolongation of the body, which overhangs the top of the petticoat),

the seams of the sleeves, and the front of the body, also the back seams on the small side, are ornamented with ribbon put on flat, and are finished in the back by two bows of similar ribbon. Articles of finelinen are becoming every day of increasing importance in the *ensemble* of the costume. Sleeves are worn in great variety; as turned back with wrist-pieces, scolloped wrist-pieces, scolloped or having slits to correspond with the trimming of the body of the same pattern, and trimmed with the same lace. This luxury in articles of fine linen is even carried so far as to require that the pocket-handkerchief should be ornamented in a similar manner, and should thus complete the *ensemble* of the costume. Sleeve in jaconet, having closed wrist-piece with piping turned up or back. The sleeve also is worn in jaconet, with English embroidery; and the wrist piece closed by inserted embroidery.

Head-dress of velvet, with flowers in velvet; the front of the head-dress is velvet ribbon rolled, and sometimes passed underneath the band.

Cap for In-door Dress, of lace, with ends of taffetas ribbon. Morning cap of fine linen, with bands or lappets ornamented with an embroidered festoon.

Body, with embroidery of cameos for in-door dress, reaching high up to the neck; and, instead of a small plain or straight collar, a deeper collar, either plain or cut into teeth on the edge.

Sleeve with volant of lace, mounted upon muslin, and having an upper puffing.

Jaconet Sleeve, with pattern bands woven in the material; closed by buttons of jasper with red spots, or blood-stone and gold.

Head-dress in silk, embroidered with gold or silver fringe, fixed on the head by two pins with diamond heads, &c.



PARIS FASHIONS FOR MARCH.

TOWN AND TABLE-TALK ON LITERATURE, ART, &c.

We have to record a loss of a well-known landscape feature on the river Thames. One of the two cedars in the Botanic Gardens at Chelsea has, like the maiden in the ballad, "bowed its head and died." Who has not heard of the two cedars at Chelsea? They were the best-known cedars in England, nay, the best-known cedars remote from Lebanon. They were planted in 1683, and their growth was watched by Sir Hans Sloane, by Miller (author of the famous Dictionary which bears his name), and by Sir Joseph Banks. There was no better marked feature on the Thames, from Cirencester to Yantlet Creek, than the two cedars at Chelsea. By how many great men have they been beheld! The two should have lived together their two centuries; but a separation has taken place, and, if we are not mistaken, the smaller tree of the two is the one that is left—

Single, unprop'd, and nodding to its fall.

The soot and vile air of our overgrown metropolis was too much for these graceful introductions from the East. How we miss the tree that has gone! What can now only be said of one, was once applicable to two—

'Tis said he's older than he's reck'nd,
And well remembers Charles the Second;

for the cedars at Chelsea were planted in the reign of the great Pan of English Sovereigns. Let every care be taken of the widow tree. Surely art can do something to prolong its existence—Dr. Lindley might see the widow into her two-hundredth year. Let him try.

We have been pleased with a characteristic anecdote of Wilkie, told by Mr. Burnet in a very readable little volume, just published, called "The Progress of a Painter." Wilkie very properly abstained from using his pencil on a Sunday. Once, and once only, was he found with a pallet on his thumb on that day. He was busy with his admirable picture, the "Parish Beadle," now in Lord Colborne's possession, and known far and wide by Raimbach's engraving. There is a monkey in the picture, and Wilkie's sitter was a monkey. "You see," Wilkie observed to Burnet, "this gentleman is a public character, and can only be spared from his duties upon a Sunday." The monkey in question was the pet specimen of the Exhibition at Exeter Change. We could wish that every artist who works on a Sunday had as good an

excuse as that urged by Wilkie for receiving a monkey as a sitter on the Sabbath.

The public has heard so much, of late, connected with the name of Haydon, and the journals of that painter (he was a better author than painter) have invested his name with so much unwelcome, though exciting interest; that, now poor John Martin is no more, we may be excused for telling a story—hitherto not in print, but one in every respect characteristic both of Haydon and John Martin. The two men had little in common, except a love for art and a hatred of the Royal Academy. The world never was with Haydon, and the world for many years was with John Martin. Who, then, more likely to call on Martin for pecuniary assistance than Mr. B. R. Haydon? He called, of course. Martin lent at once—not much, but as much as was asked. Haydon called a second, nay, a third time, and the same pecuniary assistance was rendered by the one painter to the other. Then came lighter loans—small sums borrowed in the street and elsewhere—but still no sign of repayment. Here we must observe that the two brothers after high art had but a very slight acquaintance with one another at any time; and now it was that Haydon pressed to become acquainted with John Martin. "Do, do call on me," was the often-repeated request of the painter of "Solomon," to the painter of "Belshazzar's Feast"—of the man who loved his bottle, and did not pay his bills, to the man whose drink was water, and who did pay his bills. Well (to make a long story short) Martin did call—on a Sunday, about five o'clock. Haydon was at home, and Martin was shown in. What did he see? Not a man with a frugal meal before him, but one with three kinds of wine on his table, and what Mr. Ellis, of the Star and Garter, would call a very fair dessert. The reception was most warm. "Sit down, my boy—my noble friend—this is kind. Vassari would have loved you? Can you read him in the original? There are clean glasses near you, what wine will you take? I can recommend this port, and can say more in favour of the claret than perhaps you will credit. Now we shall have a talk," &c. "Thank you, my dear Haydon, I have dined. I dined with my children, at two; and I never drink wine—for two reasons—first, I do not care about it, and secondly, I cannot afford it." He, however, did take one glass, and soon left. They were never intimate.

The March number of the "Newcomes" contains an admirable description of too large a class of English artists. Any one who has mixed in artistic circles will at once perceive the truth of Mr.

Thackeray's delineation. What he has done he has done so delicately that we are afraid to follow him. The man who dedicates years to a picture of "Roadishia," is the representative of many men both within and without the Academy.

That great master of architectural perspective and detail—our English Canaletti—Mr. David Roberts—is busy with a large picture, for the approaching Exhibition, of "The Interior of St. Peter's, at Rome." He is said to have experienced great difficulty in obtaining permission to make the necessary exact studies for his great work; but he succeeded at last, and has been working—so our adeices from Rome assure us—with all his wonted vigour, and all his unsurpassed dexterity, in representing space, and portraying architectural colour and detail.

We promised to say something about the high prices obtained for books by auction in spite of the Autocrat of Russia and the fear of war. Let us give two instances: a copy of Milton's Minor Poems, an edition of 1646, though by no means a good copy, sold at Sotheby and Wilkinson's last week for six guineas; and an indifferent copy of the first, or Peter Parker edition of "Paradise Lost," was considered a bargain at £12 17s. 6d. A few years back and three guineas was thought a liberal price for a first "Paradise Lost." No copy that we can call to mind has brought so much before.

We are glad to find, by a recent auction of very fine prints, that the same healthy prices are maintained for the works of the best engravers. A subscriber's copy of the first "Bolton Abbey"—a proof before letters, with perfect margin—sold last week for £26 5s.; one of six artist's proofs, on large paper, of Doo's exquisite line engraving of "Nature," after Sir Thomas Lawrence, sold at the same sale for £9; and a proof "with etched letters," of Wilkie's "Rent Day," was thought to go cheap at £16 10s. But for an unfortunate accident to Mr. Ryman, the great print-seller of Oxford, Mr. Grundy, of Liverpool, Mr. Agnew, of Manchester, and the great houses of Graves and Colnaghi, of London, must have paid still higher sums for some of the choicer impressions.

The British Museum has just secured an exquisite Oriental missal—one of the treasures of Tippoo Saib; and one of the prizes at the taking of Seringapatam. The price was £12.

The title of Mr. Dickens's new work is "Hard Times." His recent inquiry into the Preston strike is said to have originated the title, and, in some respects, suggested the turn of the story.

DRURY-LANE.

Under the title of "The Vendetta," an extended version, in eight tableaux, of Dumas's work, has been placed on this stage, but not with much hope of success.

The twin Corsican Brothers were performed by Mr. Brooke, and the *Chateau Renaud* was ably supported by Mr. Mead; but the audience were dissatisfied, and disapprobation was indeed frequently expressed. Some expense has been incurred in the production, which, however successful in America, is of too heavy a calibre for English tastes.

EPITOME OF NEWS—FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

The commissariat estimate for the year ending March, 1855, is printed. The sum required for the effective service is £600,271, for non-effective £44,302; being an excess on the whole of £87,447 over the estimate of 1853-4.

At the Liverpool police court, last week, Mr. John Price, of the firm of Ben-on, Price, and Co., druggists, was fined in the mitigated penalty of £25, for having in his possession a quantity of spirits without a permit.

A correspondent of the *Durham Advertiser* says, it is reported that the clergyman at Cockfield has given so much offence to several of his parishioners by wearing his beard, that they have discontinued their attendance at church.

In Natal, South Africa, the search for precious metals has been hitherto unsuccessful. The long promised steamer *Natal* had not yet arrived from England.

Sir John Key, Bart., the Chamberlain of London, has been for some time indisposed, and within the last few days he has undergone an operation of a very severe character.

During the last year no fewer than 1,133,609 cwt. of potatoes were imported, against 773,619 of the preceding year.

Mr. Stephenson, M.P., took his departure from Alexandria, on return to England, in his yacht the *Titania* on the 16th ult. It is reported that his last interview with the Pacha was other than agreeable, his Highness being annoyed at the non-completion of the railway.

The Emigration Commissioners have advertised for two vessels to carry emigrants to South Australia and New South Wales. One is to be ready for Adelaide, the other for Sydney, on the 14th of April.

A chest containing three cwt. of steel pens has been stolen from the luggage cart belonging to the Railway Company, in Williamson's-square, Liverpool. Some of the pens (directed to Mr. Stewart, of Paradise-street) have since been found in several parts of the town.

Late advices from Port-au-Prince, West Indies, state that yellow fever is raging fatally, especially among the shipping.

The committee appointed to carry out the design for a monument to be erected to the memory of the late Duke of Wellington in the City Guildhall have appointed to receive the models of the competing artists in March; those sent in last year having been all rejected.

The Committee of Management of Middlesex Hospital have given notice that Mendelssohn's oratorio "Elijah" will be performed at Exeter-hall, on Monday, March the 27th, in aid of the funds of that charity.

The Brussels Art-Exhibition, open to all nations, will begin on the 1st of August next, and close on the 30th of September following. At the Exhibition of 1851, 317 foreign (not Belgian) artists exhibited at Brussels.

Upwards of 300 labourers were taken on last week at the Royal Arsenal at Woolwich; also 280 boys in the Royal Laboratory. The carpenters, smiths, percussion-cap makers, and the lads in the cartridge department are also working night and day.

On Friday night week, the village of Clare and the surrounding country was illuminated by bonfires and tar-barrels, in honour of the pardon of Smith O'Brien. In Ennis the demonstration was limited.

The Duke of Sutherland has forwarded £200 to Lieutenant-Colonel Ainslie to be applied to the relief of the wives of the soldiers of the 93rd Regiment who have been left at home. These poor women are mostly strangers in this country, and much sympathy is excited in their behalf.

The steam-ship *Golden Age*, which left Liverpool on the 5th December, arrived at the Cape of Good Hope *en route* for Australia, on the 6th January; which, including her stay for coaling, is considered one of the fastest passages on record.

By a Royal decree, at Turin, on the 16th ult., all the import, export, export in bond, and differential duties, on corn, pulse, and meat, were entirely suspended.

The payments out of the Encumbered Estates Court in Ireland last week were about £60,000.

The *Fortune*, 571 tons, Captain M'Carthy, left Plymouth Sound last Saturday, for Adelaide, having on board 365 Government emigrants. The *Nimrod*, 1022 tons, Captain Gatenby, private passenger ship, left the same day for Sydney, with twenty first-class cabin and sixty steerage passengers.

A letter from Calais, of the 21st ult., says.—The Baroness de Brunn, wife of the Russian Ambassador at London, landed here to-day. She was accompanied by her daughter, Count de Wolowski, and a numerous suite. The whole party proceeded by railway to Cologne.

The town and county spring calendar of Galway exhibits a very gratifying decrease in crime: in the town, there but a single case, for an alleged charge of murder; and, in the county, 21 cases, 15 of which are petty larcenies.

Last week a convict named Eglin, a notorious associate of burglars and smashers, succeeded in escaping from the Middlesex House of Correction, where he was under sentence of twelve months' imprisonment, for uttering base coin.

The excitement in Paris respecting the Eastern question has proved a source of great profit to some of the journals, their sale having enormously increased, that of the *Patrie* and *Presse* especially.

A bill has been laid before the House of Lords by Lord Lyttelton, to enable boards of guardians to appoint inspectors of nuisances.

The Customs duties received at the port of Dublin during the past week amounted to £13,764, against £20,250, in the corresponding week of last year.

Last Saturday morning the cotton factory of Mr. W. Warburton, Gigg's, near Bury, was destroyed by fire. The property was insured.

"Penny lectures" are at present attempted by several Essex clergymen and gentlemen. So far as the experiment has at present gone, it has been rewarded with success.

It is stated that an instantaneous communication between England and America can be established for a smaller sum than it costs to construct a bridge across the Thames.

Numerous arrests of political emissaries have been made in Hungary and Transylvania. The prisoners have been taken to Vienna.

There is much distress in Newfoundland, from the failure of the cod-fishing, the potato blight, and the cessation of employment on the telegraph works.

The Minister of War at the Hague has presented to the Chamber a bill for an addition to the war budget of a million of florins, for repairs of fortifications and other objects of defence.

A "Beard Union" is in course of formation at Edinburgh, its object being "to promote by all legitimate means the cause of the beard, and by union to overcome the foolish prejudice against the manly ornament."

The United States squadron, under Commodore Perry, was at Hong-Kong, when the late mail left, but was expected to leave shortly, for its second trip to Japan.

The York and North-Midland Railway Company have agreed to accept from Mr. Hudson £51,000 in satisfaction of the judgment for £71,462; £21,000 to be paid next month, and the balance in three annual instalments.

Mrs. Mowat, the American actress, has quitted the stage, as she is about to wed a gentleman of fortune.

A statue of Jefferson, third President of the United States, has been cast in the Royal Foundry at Munich, under the direction of Hiram Powers, who formed the model for it.

The Town-council of Birmingham has just appointed a new local official, viz., a public analyser, charged with the examination and suppression of adulterations in all articles of consumption.

The whole of the materials lying between Great and Little Carter-lane and Old Change having been sold by auction, the line of thoroughfare of the new street, Cannon-street West, throughout to London-bridge, will be opened in the course of a few days.

The conduct of Austria towards Switzerland has become more reasonable, and there are symptoms that she is not indisposed to relax the rigour of the system she has pursued with reference to the *Swiss*.

Messrs. Fox, Henderson, and Co., have contracted for the building of the Paris Docks. A company has been organised, under their auspices, to carry out the project.

Dr. Edwards, Mr. J. Forrest, and Mr. Hartnup, are engaged in an effort to take photographs of the moon, at the Royal Observatory of Liverpool.

The trustees of the Madiai Fund are about to complete the purchase of a Government annuity on the joint lives of Francesco and Rosa Madiai, and on that of the survivor.

The *Standard* has made the singular discovery that the Turks are the descendants of the lost ten tribes, and predicts their conversion to Christianity.

The Exhibition of Fine Arts at Turin was opened on the 22nd ult., their Majesties honouring it with a visit the same day.

It is said that it is the intention of the Liverpool Marine Board to institute an inquiry into the conduct of Captain Noble in connexion with the loss of the unfortunate ship *Tayleur*.

The Earl of Carlisle is not expected in England before April. He was staying at Corfu by the last accounts.



OPENING OF THE NEW PUBLIC HALL, LEAMINGTON.

OPENING OF THE NEW PUBLIC HALL, LEAMINGTON.

About fifteen months ago, the attention of the towns-people of Leamington was prominently directed towards the attainment of a most important object, namely, that of erecting a building, which, whilst providing a public establishment, adequate in its extent of accommodation to the growing wants of an inquiring and increasing population, was intended by its originators, to be "specially identified with the social and intellectual elevation of the industrial classes—the rational amusements of the people—and the ennobling and progressive cause of popular education." It was announced by the projectors of so desirable a measure, that the funds adequate to its accomplishment would be derived from two sources—first, the allotment of one pound shares to such persons as might be disposed to further the undertaking, by becoming shareholders; and secondly, by donations from the resident nobility and gentry of Leamington and its neighbourhood. A local company was formed, and such was the support given to the undertaking, that the foundation-stone of the New Hall was laid, with Masonic honours, in May last. The architectural plans approved of were furnished by Mr. D. G. Squirrell.

The Hall is, in length, 80 feet by 33 feet; and, in height, 28 feet. It is considered by all who have seen it to be an elegant and well-proportioned room. The junction of the ceiling and the walls, at the two angles, being completed in a circular form, adds much to the beauty of the apartment; and, together with the wainscoting introduced throughout it, has admirably secured all that is desirable as to sound in the construction of public buildings.

The Hall is lighted from the south side, by six handsome windows; there being, on the opposite side, six ornamental panels, between pilasters of dark vert marble. A great novelty has been effected in the introduction of two sun-burners in the ceiling, for the purposes of evening assemblies. These burners have elicited much admiration and approval; and, being placed at a great height, bring out, in an extraordinary manner, the beautiful ceiling and cornices, resting on the enriched carved capitals of pilasters; whilst the gilded paneling introduced into the intervening spaces has been completed in a superior style of colouring. At the east end are three panels; and, in the angles are two niches, oc-

cupied by appropriate figures. The Hall has been wainscoted and panelled throughout; plastering has been studiously avoided; every attention has been paid to the heating of the room, by the introduction of hot-air apparatus; and ventilation has been thoroughly secured. Below the Hall are two smaller, but suitable apartments, communicating with each other, but easily divisible as lecture or class-rooms, or for meetings, of a character for which the Hall itself may neither be suited nor required. One of these apartments will, doubtless, be appropriated, at some future period, as a public museum, towards the formation of which, upon a creditable scale, several contributions have been received.

The public opening of the Hall was fixed for the 20th ult., and, such was the attractive programme which the committee had prepared in commemoration of the event, that, early in the afternoon, nearly every ticket was sold; and, after the doors were opened, several applications for seats were refused, owing to the impossibility of finding comfortable accommodation for a larger number than tickets had already been issued for. There were about 500 persons present. The company began to arrive between seven and eight o'clock; and soon after the latter hour, the Rev. J. H. Smith (President of the Literary and Scientific Institution), Samuel Warren, Esq., Q.C. (Recorder of Hull), the Rev. Dr. Burbidge (Head-master of the Leamington College), and several members of the Soirée Committee, took their places on the platform; when the author of "Ten Thousand a-Year" was greeted with the flattering and enthusiastic plaudits of the audience. The Rev. Mr. Smith took the chair, and several appropriate addresses were delivered. The refreshment rooms were then thrown open; after which a concert, in which Miss Lascelles took part, formed an agreeable and successful change in the proceedings of the evening.

FALL OF PART OF THE EDINBURGH CITY WALL.

On Wednesday afternoon (last week), about three o'clock, a large portion of the Wall of Edinburgh, supposed to be from 300 to 400 years old, gave way, and overwhelmed several persons in an immense mound of earth and stones. The Wall here bounded the ancient city on the side of Canongate, and faced Leith Wynd—a very steep and narrow street, inhabited by a dense population. It was from twenty-five to twenty-seven feet in height, on the side of the street, but on the other side there was a high bank, reaching to within five feet of the cope. The weight of the embankment, to which a considerable addition had been made some years ago, had evidently had the effect of pressing the wall outwards. Operations had been going on for the drainage of Leith Wynd for some time, for the safety of which beams of wood were placed against the wall as buttresses. The drain having been carried past, a new stone pillar was inserted in the wall, with the expectation of giving it solidity; and the supports were removed on Wednesday forenoon, just three hours before the accident. The Wall fell across the entire street, the cope-stones breaking into the windows of the shops opposite. The Wall carried with it a great part of the embankment, falling upon a number of children: two were extricated alive, but one of them was much mutilated, and two were in the course of the night, taken out dead. The width of the gap in the wall at the top, is fully twenty yards. The sketch here engraved, was taken by Mr. George Aikman, jun., immediately after the fall of the Wall.



FALL OF A PORTION OF THE ANCIENT WALL, AT EDINBURGH.

SMITH O'BRIEN.—The only condition annexed to the free pardon, granted by the Queen to Mr. Smith O'Brien, is the usual one of not returning within her Majesty's dominions. It is stated by his friends that he will probably join his family in France, where they have been residing for some time past. A free pardon will also be probably extended to Messrs. Martin and O'Doherty, who were convicted some time before Messrs. O'Brien, Meagher, and O'Donoghue, for the minor offence of seditious publications, and who were sentenced to a limited period of transportation, the greater part of which has already expired.

THE INTEROCEANIC SHIP CANAL.—The New York papers publish an interesting letter from Robert Nelson, of the British Surveying Expedition, detailed from the ship-of-war *Virago*, on the Pacific side, to make an exploration across the Isthmus of Darien, with the view of ascertaining the advantages or disadvantages of that isthmus for the excavation of a ship-canal between the two oceans. From the reports of the British surveying party, it appears that the party crossed the country until they got within about eight miles of the Atlantic, of which ocean they had an excellent view. They encountered a plain of some twenty-two miles in length, and in no part of it did they find the elevations greater than fifty feet above the level of the sea. The *New York Herald* remarks, "If this report be confirmed by Lieutenant Strain, of the Cyane surveying corps, and by the French expedition detailed for the same purpose to the same quarter, then is the question of the route for the great interoceanic canal between the Atlantic and Pacific a 'fixed fact'."

WRECK OF AN EMIGRANT SHIP.—The *Staffordshire*, a fine Liverpool and Boston packet ship, of nearly 2000 tons burthen—which sailed from Liverpool in the early part of November, with a cargo valued at £20,000, and 198 passengers, mostly emigrants, including several ladies struck on what are known as the Bluff Rocks off Seal Islands, on the coast of North America, on the 29th December. Two boats broke adrift, and the remaining two could only hold a few persons, and those in charge of them could scarcely get clear of the ship, when she went down with 175 human beings, including the captain. The four mates, and twenty-one seamen, with twenty-five passengers, were saved, including only one female. They succeeded on the following day in reaching Seal Islands, but suffered severely from cold and want of provisions.

TURKISH SENTINELS.

SKETCHED AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

The Sentinels in the Turkish capital have not the spruce appearance of European soldiers; but they are steady, soldier-like men. They are always stationed in pairs; and during wet weather they have a wooden platform opposite their box to stand upon. They have an hour-glass fixed in the wall beside them, to measure the time—probably on account of the divisions of the day in Turkey constantly changing.

The accompanying characteristic Sketch was recently taken at Constantinople, by a Correspondent. On the right hand corner of the foreground we have two dogs, the usual street concomitants.

Foreign invasion has rapidly and wonderfully altered the discipline of the Turkish army. To show what it was only three or four years ago, another Correspondent has sent us a Sketch of a sentry at a fort in Syria. "He was quietly spinning thread with a distaff," writes our Correspondent. "His musket was placed against the wall near him, and was entirely enveloped in a thick canvas case, which would render it useless on a sudden alarm. Sentries even on important posts were often to be seen knitting stockings, or otherwise uniting domestic pursuits with their military duties."

We may here state that a private letter from Constantinople of the 3rd ult., states that the fortification works of the town had been already begun. A supply of implements was expected from Europe. The enthusiasm of the population was so great, that a vast number of workmen were offering to work at the fortifications, declaring that they required no wages, but only asked to be fed. The greatest activity prevailed in the arsenal: the Government had entered into contracts with several foreign firms for the purchase of the necessary raw materials for bulwark cannons.

SCHUMLA.—INTERVIEW WITH OMER PACHA.—THE FORTIFICATIONS.

In our Journal of last week, our Special Correspondent at Schumla detailed his interview with Omer Pacha, and his visit to the Fortifications. We now engrave these interesting scenes: the illustration upon the front page represents our Correspondent and his fellow travellers' interview with the Marshal. The apartment is a plain square room, covered with a red carpet, and a dark-coloured divan placed upon two sides. The room is lighted by three windows. The chimney is of the usual Turkish construction, with a conical canopy, beneath which there is blazing fire. On the left, facing the reader, is seated Omer Pacha: his high forehead does not admit of his fez, or cap, being even partially seen; he rests his right hand upon a cushion, and his left upon a heap of papers and maps on the corner of the divan. On his left also is a Pacha, seated in the Turkish manner, smoking. Next him are seated,

TURKISH SENTINELS, SKETCHED AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

first, Major Tombs, Captain Austin, and our Artistic Correspondent; each wearing the indispensable fez, and wearing jack-boots, just as they had come off their journey: they hold in their hands pipes, which are superbly set with diamonds, and rest upon small flat silver saucers: they smoke occasionally, but merely as a compliment. On the left of the chimney are seated in arm chairs of rude make, three Turks, in

dark frock-coats. The black attendant near the fireplace bears a cup of coffee, and is followed by other attendants, who take coffee from a servant. Behind, in the wall, is a niche, containing a table with a mirror, and two vases of flowers, the only attempt at ornament in the room.

The officer standing for orders, in front of the group of attendants, &c., is the Aide-de-Camp sent for by Omer Pacha to accompany the visitors to the military establishments of Schumla. He wears a frock-coat, trimmed with dark fur; a sabre, cartridge-box, &c. In the middle of the room is a brazier, placed upon two white stone steps; and a small square on the wall, without a frame, contains some precepts of the Koran.

The View below commands the plains and town of Schumla, and is taken from the inside of the Fort of Fidich Tabiassi, situated a mile and a half from the town. The visitors have arrived, with two orderlies (artillerymen) as their escort, a valet-de-place and interpreter, and the Aide-de-Camp. In the foreground are piles of shot; and upon the walls are the travellers, sketching and viewing the distant country—Schumla lying between the two mountains on the right.

The environs of Schumla are thus described by a contemporary:—"On leaving Schumla we passed through one of the two roads by which the chain of hills which all but encircle it can be penetrated. They are in no part of very great height, but rise almost perpendicularly above the town, and contain some charming glens. At first sight one would imagine that, when thus overlooked, Schumla must be all but untenable as a military post, for any line of defence which embraced the hills would require an enormous army to man it, vastly larger, in fact, than the importance of the place, in any point of view, would warrant. In reality, however, they form the great source of its strength, and have rendered it famous by the various checks which the Russians have sustained before it. They are covered throughout the whole extent by thick brushwood, the remains of old forests, the height in most places of a man's shoulders, and so stiff and close that it is almost impossible for one to make his way through it, even along the path, without a guide. In the same manner it forms an excellent barrier against any attack on every side but the east, as it would be impossible for troops to deploy in the thickets; and, if the two narrow roads were well defended, it would be equally impossible even for scattered detachments to penetrate, without being separated and cut off by any

foe who knew the ground. These natural advantages have rendered Schumla the great stumbling block of the Russians in all their wars with the Turks; and as long as it remained unto them, an advance upon Constantinople was attended with no small danger. The approaches on the side next Varna are defended by several batteries as well as by the enceinte which surrounds the whole place. Alto-



FORT OF FIDICH-TABIASSI.—VIEW OF THE PLAIN AND TOWN OF SCHUMLA.



gether a large army might safely retire here in case of a reverse farther northward, and bid defiance to a force vastly superior. Its position with regard to the other fortified posts on the Danube, renders it admirably adapted for the Turkish head-quarters."

Schumla looks just like a town built within the crater of a volcano; and, consequently, in summer is very hot and stifling; but abundant streams of excellent water gush from the encircling hills into its numerous fountains; it therefore has one of the first requisites of a head-quarter; and, altogether, it is rather a vast mountain camp, fortified by nature and by art, than a regular fortress. The Grand Place, or public square, is, daily so thronged with Bashi-boozouks, and other strange but stalwart Asiatic figures, in the garb of old Turkey, that one can scarcely press through; for here all sorts of cooking and refreshment establishments are congregated together; and Irregulars—Dells, Negroes, Arnaouts, Kurds, and Syrians, are seen hourly regaling themselves with the kabab, the beurek, or the pilaff of Turkish street gastronomy.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

RESULTS OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS,
TAKEN DURING THE WEEK ENDING THURSDAY, MARCH 2.

Month and Day.	Corrected Reading of Barometer at 9 A.M.	Thermometer.		Mean Tempera- ture of the Day.	Departure of Tempera- ture from Average.	Degrees of Humid- ity.	Direction of Wind.	Rain in Inches.
		Highest Reading.	Lowest Reading.					
Feb. 24	30.493	48° 8'	31° 2'	40° 5'	+ 0° 9'	84	..	0.00
25	30.401	51° 5'	40° 8'	45° 5'	+ 5° 8'	65	..	0.00
" 26	30.544	50° 1'	31° 0'	40° 2'	+ 0° 4'	68	..	0.00
" 27	30.408	51° 1'	32° 0'	42° 0'	+ 2° 1'	78	..	0.00
" 28	30.284	52° 5'	36° 5'	45° 6'	+ 5° 7'	64	..	0.00
Mar. 1	30.707	55° 2'	25° 7'	40° 2'	+ 0° 2'	65	..	0.00
" 2	30.679	58° 0'	26° 6'	41° 8'	+ 1° 8'	63	..	0.00

Note.—The sign + denotes above the average, and the sign — below the average. The numbers in the seventh column are calculated on the supposition that the saturation of the air is represented by 100.

The reading of the barometer decreased from 30.53 inches at the beginning of the week to 30.40 inches by the afternoon of Feb. 24; increased to 30.58 inches by the morning of the 26th; decreased to 30.32 inches by the morning of the 28th; increased to the highest reading during the week (30.78 inches) by noon on March 1; and decreased to 30.68 inches by the end of the week. The mean for the week, at the height of 82 feet above the level of the sea, was 30.433 inches. The readings of the barometer this week have been very remarkable. That on March 1 was higher than on any day, with the exception of March 6, 1852, since January 2, 1852.

The mean daily temperatures have varied from 5° 8' to 0° 2' above their average value. During the time they were above their averages—viz., on every day from February 20th to March, the average daily excess was 3° 9'.

The mean temperature of the week was 42° 3', being 2° 4' above the average of the corresponding week during 38 years.

The range of temperature during the week was 32° 3'.

The mean daily range of temperature during the week was 20° 1'.

The weather throughout the week was very fine, the air was dry, and the sky almost cloudless, with the exception of the 24th.

For the month of February, the mean reading of the barometer, at the level of the sea was 30.237 inches. The highest temperature during the month was 55° 5' on the 6th, and the lowest was 22° 5' on the 14th. The range of temperature during the month was, therefore, 33°. The mean of all the highest temperatures by day was 47° 3', and of all the lowest by night was 33° 7'. The mean daily range of temperature during the month was, therefore, 14° 7'. The mean temperature of the month was 40° 1', being 1° 8' above the average of thirty-eight Februaries. The mean temperature of evaporation was 37° 3'. The mean temperature of the dew point was 33° 3'. The mean degree of humidity of the air was 80, complete saturation being represented by 100. The fall of rain during the month was 1.1 inch.

Lewisham, March 3rd, 1854.

JAMES GLAISHER.

ROYAL NATIONAL INSTITUTION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF LIFE FROM SHIPWRECK.—On Thursday last a meeting of the general committee of this Society was held at its offices, John-street, Adelphi; Mr. Thomas Chapman, F.R.S., in the chair. The silver medal of the institution and £4 were voted to Coastguard chief boatman, George Finlay, and £4 to his crew, for their praiseworthy and gallant services to two of the crew of the unfortunate ship *Tayleur*. A reward of £4 10s. was also granted to a boat's crew for saving the crew of the Spanish brigantine *Adolfo*, wrecked in Dundrum Bay; and £5 10s. to another boat's crew for saving the crew of the smack *Mary*, of Douglas, also stranded in Dundrum Bay. It was said that the Institution had a life-boat ready to be sent to this dangerous place. The silver medal of the society and £1 were also voted to Coastguard-man Fitzpatrick, for his gallant conduct in saving the master and three of the crew of the brig *Lady Octavia*, which was wrecked on the coast of Cavan. Favourable reports continued to be received of the services of the life-boats of the institution; those at Hauxley, Boulner, Aldborough, Lym Regis, Bude, Barnmouth, and Anglesea, having, during the late terrific gales, rescued scores of poor fellows from a watery grave. Nine life-boats had been sent by the Society to Dungeness and Ardrosson during the past month. It was said that the Duke of Northumberland, K.G., President of the Society, had kindly consented to preside over the anniversary dinner of the Society, to be held in May next. New life-boats having been sanctioned to be built for two or three places on the coast, the proceedings closed.

BREAK-UP OF THE SEWERS COMMISSION.—At a meeting of the Metropolitan Commissioners of Sewers, held at the chief office, Greek-street, Scho, on Monday, the following communication from the Home-office was read:—

Whitehall, Feb. 18, 1854.

Gentlemen.—I am directed by Viscount Palmerston to transmit to you the enclosed copy of a letter from Mr. P. O. Ward, relating to the comparative advantage of the systems of drainage advocated by the Commissioners of Sewers and the Board of Health respectively, and I am to state that, in his Lordship's opinion, the system of drainage recommended by the Board of Health, is that which ought to be adopted, as combining the greatest degree of efficiency with the greatest degree of economy.

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient servant, (Signed) HENRY FITZROY.

After the reading of this letter, Colonel Dawson said: "After this expression of deliberate judgment by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, in opposition to the principles and practice of this Commission, sanctioned by the highest engineering authorities of the day, it is not consistent with our reputation, or with the best interests of the public, that we should continue longer in office than until this board can be reconstructed, and our successors are appointed" (Hear). I move, therefore, that this Court be adjourned *sine die*." Mr. Hawkshaw seconded the motion. A pause of about half a minute took place, but no one else spoke. The Chairman put the question, which passed unanimously, the City representatives not voting. The Commissioners then retired.

THE NEW CITY THOROUGHFARE.—A numerously-attended meeting of the inhabitants of the ward of Castle Baynard was held at Mr. Johnson's rooms, Sermon-lane, on Tuesday, under the presidency of the Alderman of the ward, to consider what steps should be taken to obtain a wider carriage-way at the entrance of New Cannon-street, from St. Paul's Churchyard. It was the general opinion that the roadway, as at present planned, would not suffice for the traffic, nor correspond with the importance of the street. Alderman Muggeridge said the move should have been made before Messrs. Cook's new premises were erected; or, better, the new street should have been carried through Doctors' commons. It was ultimately resolved that a public meeting should be called for the purpose of considering the state of the thoroughfares of the City of London; and a deputation was nominated to wait on the Lord Mayor, and obtain his assistance in carrying out the object.

SCHOOLMASTERS' TESTIMONIAL.—A large number of schoolmasters who had been educated in Battersea Training College, have just presented to Mr. G. W. Martin a very handsome silver tea and coffee service, in testimony of their appreciation of his eminent services, during eight years, as professor of music at Battersea College. The gift was accompanied by an expression of deep regret at Mr. Martin's retirement from the College.

SEAMEN'S HOSPITAL SOCIETY.—The anniversary of this corporation will be celebrated, on Wednesday next, by a public dinner at the London Tavern, at which the Right Hon. E. Cardwell, M.P., will preside. It will be recollected that the hospital of this excellent society is the *Dreadnought* three-decker, moored off Greenwich, and open for public inspection daily, except Sunday, without tickets. In this hospital sick and diseased seamen of all nations are received. The number of patients during the last year was 2,563.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE COMPANY.—An extraordinary general meeting of this company was held at the Bridge-house Hotel, on Tuesday. From the speech of the chairman it appeared that applications for space for the exhibition of manufactures are far beyond what there is to give. A resolution authorising the directors to raise a sum of £250,000, making altogether £1,000,000, for the completion of the building, was carried.

FIRE AT MR. APSLEY PELLATT'S GLASS WORKS.—Shortly before two o'clock, on Tuesday morning, a fire broke out in the above-named premises, situate in Holland-street, Blackfriars road. The fire commenced in the store-room at the rear of the building, and rapidly spread to the show-rooms, which were completely destroyed, together with the brittle and valuable contents. The damage amounts to at least £20,000; for the full sum of which Mr. Pellatt is fortunately insured.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

(Continued from page 190.)

HOUSE OF LORDS.—THURSDAY.

On the motion of Lord BROUGHAM, the County Courts Act Extension Bill was read a third time and passed.

THE WAR.

The Earl of ELLENBOROUGH asked what were the intentions of the Government with respect to the calling out of the Militia this year, and with respect to the corps either not formed, or which were below their complement? The noble Earl took occasion to express his opinion that the Government were premature in sending out to Constantinople so large a disposable force until they had first secured a predominant position in the Baltic. The fleet intended for the Baltic he thought was insufficient. As a step necessary to the national security he suggested the propriety of permanently embodying the Militia.

The Duke of NEWCASTLE deprecated any such discussion upon the subject referred to, at the present moment; he could not consent to give all the information asked for. It was the intention of the Government to call out the Militia for training this year for a period of twenty-eight days; but the Government did not intend to have recourse to any penal steps for increasing that body; nor did they think that the time had arrived for saddling the nation with the expense of maintaining an enormous permanent Militia.

Lord BEAUMONT bore testimony to the fact of the volunteers for the Militia in the West of England, at all events, being amply sufficient.

Lord HARDWICKE said that the Emperor of Russia had brought his fleets to a state of very great efficiency, while it was well known that there was on our part a great difficulty in enrolling sailors. It was his opinion that the Coastguard would be found quite unfit for anything beyond mere deck duty.

After a few words from the Earl of WINCHILSEA and Lord CHELSEA, the subject dropped.

In reply to the Earl of Donoughmore, the Earl of ABERDEEN said that the subject of the removal of Irish paupers from England was under consideration.—Adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

Mr. COBBETT gave notice of his intention, on the 16th inst., to move for leave to bring in a bill to limit the hours of labour for women and young children to ten hours in the day in the factories of the United Kingdom.

In reply to Mr. Rich, the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said that a plan of survey of the United Kingdom was in contemplation, which might involve an expenditure of several millions, but which would not be proceeded with until Parliament had sanctioned its details.

In answer to Mr. Loveden, Mr. SIDNEY HERBERT said that the army of the East would be accompanied by seven chaplains, viz., four Church of England, one Presbyterian, and two of the Roman Catholic Church.

THE REFORM BILL.

Lord J. RUSSELL gave notice that he would, on the following day, state the course which the Government intended to pursue with regard to the second reading of the Reform Bill for Amending the Parliamentary Representation of the People of England and Wales.

Mr. J. O'CONNELL moved for a select committee to inquire into the recent cases of excessive loss of life on board emigrant vessels. Having referred to several cases in which an immense sacrifice of life had been the result, he urged the necessity of further legislation upon the subject.

Mr. F. FEEL objected to the motion, as the whole subject of passenger vessels had been recently investigated by committees of the House. He would not, however, oppose an inquiry into such parts of the subject as were found to be beyond the operation of the Passengers Act.

After short discussion, the motion, in a modified form, was agreed to.

The HOUSE OF LORDS was chiefly occupied on Friday week in discussing the Eastern Question.—Lord BEAUMONT found fault with what Lord Aberdeen had said about its being the duty of Government to respect the popular feeling, and encourage pacific views. He indignantly denied the morality of such doctrines under present circumstances, and referred with approbation to the very different tone in which Lord Palmerston had spoken. He moved a resolution in favour of taking such steps as may secure a durable peace.—Lord CLARENDON, after defending the policy of Ministers, went on to say that we were now embarked upon a great contest; and, as we had been forced into it, the question must be settled once and for all permanently. For the security and tranquillity of Europe, it was necessary to check the aggressive and ambitious power of Russia.—The Marquis of CLANRICARDE said it was an unprecedented thing to send out fleets and armies to prosecute war without the fact having been communicated to Parliament by Message from the Crown.—Lord GRANVILLE said the time had not yet arrived for her Majesty to make a communication to Parliament.—Lord BEAUMONT ultimately withdrew his motion, expressing himself satisfied with the explanation given.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, on the same evening, the Army Estimates, involving an expenditure of £6,500,000, were passed, after some discussion, in the course of which Mr. S. HERBERT stated that the Estimates now presented must not be taken as final. They only gave the force which the Government deemed necessary in the present intermediate state, anticipative of hostilities. It had been judged right to await the result of the negotiations, and allow the House an opportunity of fully discussing the policy of Government before asking for a large additional force.

Mr. HUME called the attention of the House to the report of the Royal Commissioners "for inquiring into the practicability and expediency of consolidating the different departments connected with the civil administration of the army," dated the 21st day of February, 1857, signed by Lord Howick, Viscount Palmerston, Lord J. Russell, Sir J. Hobhouse, and other commissioners, presented to Parliament in 1857, and moved the following resolution:—"That it is the opinion of this House in accordance with the Report of the said Commission confirmed by evidence taken before the Committee in the Naval, Military, and Ordnance Expenditure, in the years 1848-50, that measures should forthwith be taken to consolidate the different branches of the military service and expenditure, and to place the whole under the superintendence and control of one efficient and responsible department."

Mr. S. HERBERT said that, however desirable the proposed change might be, there were great many obstacles in the way of effecting this arrangement. Since the commission had sat upon this subject, Lord Grey's plans had been, in a great measure, carried out; and that want of harmony between the military and civil authorities which was then complained of had no longer existence, inasmuch as the effect of those plans had been to produce the most perfect harmony between them.

Lord SEYMOUR quoted the opinion of Earl Grey as to the impossibility of the efficient working of a system so complicated.

Sir J. PAKINGTON said that the present system could not be otherwise than detrimental to the service.

After a few words from Mr. E. ELLIICE and Colonel KNOX,

Lord J. RUSSELL said he thought it would be well to have a more efficient and more direct authority in those cases where the health of the troops was concerned. Such a new organisation as was proposed would, however, at the present moment, lead to great confusion and inconvenience.

Mr. HUME subsequently withdrew his motion.

On the motion of Mr. HUME, leave was given to bring in a bill to charge the expense of hustings at elections on boroughs and counties.

The Coasting Trade Bill was read a second time.—Adjourned.

CHURCH, UNIVERSITIES, &c.

TESTIMONIAL.—A large silver salver and jug, both richly chased, have been "presented to the Rev. Robert Payne Smith, M.A., by his friends, of the congregation and vestry of Trinity Episcopal Chapel, Edinburgh; and by the grateful scholars of Trinity Episcopal School, Edinburgh; which owes to him its origin and foundation; in affectionate remembrance of his pastoral labours among them."

PREFERMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS.—Rectories: The Rev. J. Anderson to Norton-in-the-Moors, near Newcastle-under-Lyne; Rev. F. Boyd to Woldham, Kent; Rev. B. G. Bridge to Blankney, Lincolnshire; Rev. J. Hart to Somerby, Lincolnshire; Rev. J. Hampstead to Gratwick St. Mary, Staffordshire. Vicarages: The Rev. F. Bennett to Shrewton; Rev. D. D. Stewart to Maidstone; Rev. J. G. Edwards to Pittington. Incumbencies: The Rev. W. Barber to St. Jon's Church, Leicester; Rev. J. Cargill, to Shirebrook, Derbyshire; Rev. J. F. English to Brentwood; Rev. K. Glover to Trinity Church, Maidstone; Rev. N. Greer well to the parish of St. Mark's, Holbeck, Leeds; Rev. E. R. Hampden to Breinton, Herefordshire; Rev. W. Poole, to Hentland and Little Dewchurch, near Hereford; Rev. J. Wilson to St. James's Church, near Alwick; Rev. H. Woodward to St. John's Church, Doddington, Salop. Perpetual Curacy: Rev. R. Glover to Trinity Church, Maidstone.

After a few words from Mr. Charles Murray, the resolution was put and carried unanimously.

Mr. CRAUFURD, M.P., proposed the next resolution, which was also carried without a dissentient voice.—"That the last attempt to define what is a newspaper has been signally unsuccessful, and that the increased liability of the Board of Inland Revenue to enforce the law with impartiality, shows that no remedy will be effectual that does not exempt the press from all taxation, and liberate

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

SUNDAY, March 5.—1st Sunday in Lent. Battle of Barossa, 1811.
 MONDAY, 6.—Michael Angelo born, 1475.
 TUESDAY, 7.—St. Perpetua.
 WEDNESDAY, 8.—Ember Week. Raffaello born, 1483.
 THURSDAY, 9.—David Rizzio assassinated, 1566.
 FRIDAY, 10.—Sir Hugh Myddleton died, 1589.
 SATURDAY, 11.—Benjamin West died, 1820.

TIMES OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON-BRIDGE.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING MARCH 11, 1854.

Sunday.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.
M 55	h m 6 15	m 6 30	h m 6 50	h m 7 10	h m 7 35	h m 8 10
5 55	6 15	6 30	6 50	7 10	7 35	8 10

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. E. G. and J. S. G.—Received, on behalf of—Defoe, the great-grandson of the author of "Robinson Crusoe," the sum of 2s., in postage-stamps, which has been forwarded to Mr. Charles Knight, 90, Fleet-street, who has kindly consented to receive the subscriptions.
 R. P. Newton.—There were four folio editions of Shakspeare's plays published in the seventeenth century—viz., in 1623, 1632, 1664, and 1685. Of these, the folio 1623 is the only one of any great value, either in a literary or monetary point of view; but this is so rare, that a fine copy would probably fetch a hundred and thirty guineas at the present time. Z will please to accept our best thanks for the "Kentish Post, or Canterbury News Letter," March, 16—20, 1744—5.

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON, SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 1854.

It is not surprising that Russia should endeavour to excite rebellion among the Greek subjects of the Sultan. Without a friend or an ally among the nations of Europe, the Czar must find support among the internal malcontents of the Turkish Empire, or stand entirely isolated from aid and sympathy. We do not expect, however, that his attempts in this respect will be very successful. It will be well for the King of Greece if he, on his part, keep studiously aloof from such intrigues. The establishment of the kingdom of Greece is now pretty generally admitted to have been the result of misplaced sympathy. The Greeks as a nation have proved themselves utterly unworthy of the interest which they excited, and of the efforts which were made in their behalf. The name of Greece aroused a vast quantity of schoolboy enthusiasm, upwards of thirty years ago—an enthusiasm, unsupported by any facts of more recent occurrence than those which illustrated the ancient names of Athens and Sparta. The world has now discovered its error, and found that the Greek of the nineteenth century bears as little resemblance to the Greek of the classical days of antiquity, as a wooden figure at a snuff-shop does to the divine figure of Apollo Belvidere. The kingdom of Greece must stand upon its merits and its good behaviour, for it no longer possesses that factitious interest, by the support of which it was wrested from the Turkish Empire. The present war is not one of sympathy, but of principle. If King Otho be wise he will do his utmost to keep clear of the dispute. Russian intriguers are no real friends of his kingdom. The encouragement which the Greek Sovereign and people may give to the insurgents in those portions of ancient Greece which still belong to the Turkish empire, will assuredly be visited upon their heads by the indignation of Europe. If King Otho hold his own during the approaching struggle he will do well; but to take part with Russia, either covertly or openly, will be to dig a pit for his own destruction. Although the course of Russia, in stirring up discontent in Albania, may be considered a politic one, as far as Russian interests are concerned, the Czar will, doubtless, discover, ere long, that a similar line of policy with regard to a portion of his dominions may be both necessary and expedient to the allies. The insurrection which he may attempt to foster among the Grecian subjects of the Porte may prove unsuccessful; but the insurrection which the allies might stir up in the ancient kingdom of Poland would meet with sympathy in every part of Europe. Indeed, the opinion has gained ground, not only in France and England, but in Austria and Prussia, that the restoration of Poland would be conducive to the highest interests of European safety and independence.

THE Lord Chancellor, on Monday night, submitted to the House of Lords a Bill for the Amendment of the Law, which was mainly founded on the Report of the Law Commissioners, sent in last year; but which, in some respects, differed from that Report. His Lordship has, with certain parties, incurred no small amount of obloquy for not having adopted all the Commissioners' recommendations; but, so far as his statement in the House goes, he appears to have reason and justice on his side.

First of all, as to Juries. The Commissioners seem to desire to make the presence of a jury an exception. The Lord Chancellor would still continue it as the rule; although he is willing that, in certain cases, where the parties agree, and the Judge confirms their agreement, that the presence of a jury shall not be required. This is taking the true course; for, though it is objected that the Judge will never dispense with a jury, if he can help it, but will always have a jury to divide with him the labour and the responsibility of a decision, we do not believe that that objection is well founded; and, if it is—if there is a Judge who will, from motives of selfishness, thus abandon his duty, he must be one whose strength of moral rectitude is so small, that he ought not to be trusted alone to decide on anything. The argument founded by Lord Brougham on the practice in the County Courts is worth nothing. It is true that, in those courts the great majority of cases is decided without a jury; but, then, it is equally true that, in order to have a jury, the party requiring one must give a notice, which he is very likely to omit giving in time; and must pay additional costs, which he is quite sure to desire to escape. To make the proceedings in these courts an argument one way or the other, there should be a jury summoned for every sitting of the court; and the parties who desired to try with, and those who desired to try without a jury, should simply declare their wishes in court; and no greater or less costs should follow the choice either way. If, under such circumstances, the parties preferred a trial before a Judge alone, to a trial before a Judge and jury, there would be a strong reason for

adopting a system which, if adopted, would make this ancient and deservedly popular institution of the country fall into desuetude.

Oddly enough, there comes accompanying this proposition, which has for its object the gradual abolition of juries, a scheme for improving them. The Commissioners rightly enough consider that the distinction now existing between special and common juries is one of very modern origin, and, in all probability, sprang from an abuse or a misunderstanding of the law, and they, therefore, propose that the two classes of men now divided should be mixed together, and that one jury panel alone should suffice for the courts. To this suggestion the Lord Chancellor, and every one else who understands the subject, gives in his hearty adhesion. Juries will be altogether improved. At present the gentleman, plaintiff or defendant, suspects a feeling of class to exist against him among common jurymen; while, on the other hand, if a person in humble circumstances is a plaintiff or defendant in a suit against a gentleman, or against a company, it is almost a rule of professional practice to make the cause a special jury cause, when, of course, the poorer man suspects the purpose for which it is done to be a bad one, and anticipates that, as a matter of course, that purpose will be attained. The return to the ancient common law of England will be a great advantage. It will secure the greatest intelligence, by mixing, on an equal footing, and in one joint employment—such as does not now exist between special and common jurymen—persons of different classes and different habits of life.

But the alteration which will most attract the general attention is the alteration proposed with regard to Oaths. At present Quakers, Moravians, and Separatists, are exempted from taking oaths, and are allowed to make affirmations, which they declare, as religious men, to be binding on their consciences. The penalty of perjury in the next world, should the witness speak falsely, is of course assumed to be incurred by him, whatever may be the form of asseveration he adopts; and in this world, should his falsehood be detected, the law would visit on false evidence given under a declaration the same penalty as if it was given under an oath. Of late years, many men, without avowing, nay, while contradicting, their adherence to any known sect, have declared that they could not conscientiously take an oath. The Lord Chancellor himself relates a case of this kind which occurred before him when travelling circuit as a Judge, and in which, on the following morning, the scruples of the individual—whom the Lord Chancellor believes to have been a thoroughly conscientious man—were removed, and the oath was taken. On objections of the kind thus stated, the Commissioners and the Lord Chancellor propose to legislate; and by legislation to allow any one who declares that he has conscientious scruples as to taking an oath, to be exempted from doing so, and to give his evidence without an oath. The bare proposition is enough to startle any one, and therefore to it is added this plan, that the Judge is first to examine the party, and, on being satisfied that the scruples are really conscientious, he is to admit such party to give his evidence not on oath. A more mistaken notion and a more weak defence against abuse have never been presented to the notice of the Legislature. The greatest dissemblers will always the most readily satisfy the Judge; their unscrupulous declarations will mislead him; and the time which ought to be devoted to trying the merits of the cause, will be wasted (we use the term advisedly) in helpless criticism upon the sincerity of the witness. The Judge will be in a really hopeless situation. When a counsel cross-examines a perjured witness he has something on which to found his cross-examination—facts, dates, times, circumstances, may one or all afford the means of detection; but where are the means of detection when the assertion relates not to external things which may be tested by other things, but to internal convictions which are subject to no test. It is true that the witness who has deceived the Judge and falsified the evidence may be prosecuted for perjury, but prosecution for perjury has long been found to be one of the weakest of all means to prevent the crime it is intended to punish. In fact, it is so troublesome and so expensive that it is seldom resorted to; and, as those who resort to it are generally persons in whom revenge, rather than a love of justice, appears to be predominant, the proceeding has fallen into a kind of disrepute. But the sanctity of an oath is still (thank God) a popular belief; and, while he who betrays his word is, among enlightened and good men, but among them alone, looked upon as a reprobate, he who betrays his oath is universally deemed to be a villain. If the oath is not required, the fear of this universal execration will be gone. It may be said that the oath is not now required from a Quaker, a Moravian, and a Separatist. True; but each of these professes to declare in a Court of Justice, under a solemn, if not a divine, sanction, though without a divine invocation, that which he speaks is true; and each binds himself to that declaration by showing that he belongs to a recognised sect, among whose members the form of an oath is forbidden, while the sanctity of a formal declaration is religiously enforced. But the man who belongs to no sect gives no such warranty of his religious sincerity. He may, by possibility, be a most conscientious man, but he offers no intelligible and unmistakeable proof that he is so. The law is required to take him on trust, and to accept, so to speak, his own bail at his own valuation. The case related by the Lord Chancellor (where, by-the-by, the oath was submitted to) is an instance of a conscientious man, who belonged to no sect; but a person who appeared before one of our police magistrates the other day, and took the same objection to an oath, did not in the estimation of the magistrate, who rejected his evidence, furnish by his speech or his conduct any reason to put him in the same category. Is the Judge to try this interlocutory question of the conscientiousness of the witness? And, if so, is he to do so without any assistance of extraneous evidence? or is there to be evidence produced on both sides? This last supposition is impossible, for no notice of the interlocutory trial will be given, and the Judge must therefore determine the question of the witness's fitness as best he may. The consequences of deciding under such circumstances may be mischievous to the parties; the proposed system must be disastrous to the country. It would be better to abolish oaths altogether; and, putting all witnesses on the same footing, to declare that nothing but the common law penalties of perjury shall attach on false evidence; leaving out, as might then be done with religious

grace, all pretence of imposing by mere human authority a divine sanction on a human act.

We have not space at this moment to proceed further with the examination of the bill introduced by the Lord Chancellor. As to the change in the mode of proceeding in the addresses by counsel—as to the matter relating to the stamping of documents—as to the power of any one court to render complete justice in a particular case, without the necessity of the party going before another tribunal—and as to the right of a creditor to take in execution debts owing to his debtor—we agree both with the Lord Chancellor and the Commissioners, that the alterations are required. As to some others, which we may notice, on a future occasion, we entertain serious doubts. His Lordship is entitled to the thanks of the country, for the manner in which he has introduced the bill; and, we must add, for the discrimination, which, while anxious to improve the law, has induced him to pause before giving his high sanction to hasty attempts at improvement that could not have proved anything but serious deteriorations.

THE COURT.

The Queen has distinguished the past week by a series of hospitalities at Buckingham Palace, commencing with a grand dinner, on Saturday last, at which the company included her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, the Duke of Newcastle, the Sardinian Minister the Portuguese Minister, and the Countess Lavradio, the Marquis and Marchioness of Kildare, the Earl Spencer, Viscount and Viscountess Evelyn, Sir William and Lady Molesworth, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Rear-Admiral M. F. Berkeley, and Colonel Airey. The Earl of Aberdeen had an audience of her Majesty on Saturday. The Prince Consort paid a visit to the Royal Panopticon of Science and Art, in Leicester-square, and the Prince of Wales and Prince Alfred visited the Zoological Gardens in the Regent's Park.

On Sunday her Majesty, his Royal Highness Prince Albert, the Duchess of Kent, the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, and the Princess Alice, attended divine service in the private Chapel of Buckingham Palace. The Hon. and Rev. G. Wellesley officiated.

On Monday the Earl of Clarendon had an audience of her Majesty. The Prince Consort and the Prince of Wales rode out on horseback in the course of the morning. In the afternoon the Queen and the Prince Consort took a drive in an open landau and four. In the evening her Majesty had a dinner party, the company at which included her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, the Earl and Countess Granville, the Spanish Minister, the Brazilian Minister, Lord and Lady Colville of Culross, Lord and Lady Lyttelton, Lord and Lady Overstone, the Right Hon. B. Disraeli and Mrs. Disraeli, Sir John and Lady Young, Sir George Brown, Colonel Eyre, and Mr. Philip Pusey.

On Tuesday morning at seven o'clock the 1st battalion of the Scots Fusilier Guards paraded in front of Buckingham Palace, immediately after leaving the Wellington-barracks en route to Portsmouth, for embarkation on foreign service. Her Majesty, his Royal Highness Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales, Prince Alfred, and the Princesses appeared on the balcony of the centre window. The battalion under the command of Col. Dixon being formed in line, presented arms, and gave three cheers, after which they marched to the Waterloo station of the South-Western Railway. The Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, the Princess Alice, Prince Alfred, and the Princess Helena and Louisa, visited Astley's Theatre during the afternoon. In the evening her Majesty and the Prince Consort honoured the Haymarket Theatre with their presence.

On Wednesday the Queen and the Prince Consort, accompanied by the Princess Royal and the Princess Alice, and attended by the Ladies and Gentlemen of the Royal Household, visited the Tower of London. In the evening her Majesty had a dinner-party, the company at which included her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, the Duchess of Sutherland, the Earl and Countess of Clarendon, Viscount and Viscountess Hardinge, Lord Raglan, and Admiral Sir William Parker.

Viscountess Jocelyn has succeeded the Marchioness of Ely as Lady in Waiting. Colonel the Hon. C. Grey and the Hon. Mortimer S. West have relieved Major-General Buckley and Lieut.-Colonel the Hon. A. N. Hood, as Equerry and Groom in Waiting. Lord Waterpark has succeeded the Marquis of Ormonde as Lord in Waiting to the Queen; and Captain the Hon. Dudley De Ros has relieved Colonel Wylde in the duties of Equerry in Waiting to Prince Albert.

THE DUCHESS OF GLOUCESTER.

We are sorry to announce the severe indisposition of this estimable Princess. Her Royal Highness has suffered considerably during the past week from symptoms which have given her medical attendants some cause for anxiety. Her Majesty the Queen has called almost daily upon her august relative, and all the members of the Royal family have been constant in their inquiries after the condition of her Royal Highness. The latest accounts describe the venerable Princess as having passed a tolerable night.

Her Royal Highness the Duchess D'Aumale and the Princess de Salerno visited her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, on Saturday, at Clarence House, St. James's. Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess de Nemours visited her Royal Highness on Tuesday.

The Duke of Portland is stated to be suffering from indisposition, at Welbeck Abbey.

The Earl of Mansfield's only son, the youthful Lord Stormont, has just entered the army as cornet in the 8th Royal Irish Hussars.

Viscountess Palmerston held a reception on Saturday evening, at the family residence, in Carlton-gardens. A brilliant circle of the corps diplomatique and aristocracy honored her Ladyship with their presence.

The marriage of Lord George Paget, M.P., youngest son of the Marquis of Anglesey, with his beautiful cousin, Miss Agnes Paget, daughter of the late Sir Arthur Paget, G.C.B., was solemnised on Monday evening, by special license, at St. James's Church, Piccadilly, in the presence of a very numerous family circle.

NORTHERN NATIONAL SCHOOLS.—On Monday afternoon an inaugural breakfast was celebrated in a School of Art and Design erected in Castle-street, Long-acre, by the parochial authorities of St. Martin's-in-the-fields, and with the active concurrence of the Vicar, the Rev. Mr. Mackenzie, who has zealously engaged in the promotion of industrial education. To the buildings required for the purpose, and which have been erected over the Day-schools in Castle-street, the Education Committee of the Privy Council had granted £250, the whole expense, however, being £500. The meeting was presided over by the Duke of Argyll, assisted by Lord Lyttelton, Lord Haddo, Lord Goderich, Lord J. Stuart, Sir W. James, Mr. Cardwell, M.P., Admiral Harcourt, and others; several of whom addressed the company on the occasion. The 100th Psalm was sung by the children, and appropriate prayers were read, one of which was afterwards alluded to by the Duke in his address. The words which had thus commanded attention were as follows:—"Give to them that grace which shall enable them to discern Thee in all they learn, that they may know there is no form nor shape in the universe without Thee, the Creator." The Duke of Argyll commenced by observing that, though no member of the Church of England, he was a parishioner of St. Martin's, and felt great interest in the general cause of education. Owing to religious divisions, he regretted that no great national scheme was possible; but rejoiced that the clergy of the Church of England, as well as of other denominations, were possessing themselves of the field; it being his opinion that secular education should be connected with religious culture and organisation, and that the clergy should extend their duties beyond that of imparting the mere articles of belief. The Christian churches of the country should promote artistic education as a branch of industrial instruction. Large capitals were expended by manufacturing firms for French designs, which might just as well be spent for English ones. There was no want of refinement in the national taste, but it needed education. His Grace then alluded to the sculptures by Mr. Munro engraved in last week's ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, as proofs of what may be effected by true genius properly fostered. Mr. Redgrave followed, with some appropriate remarks relative both to art-workmen and their appreciators, both of which would be equally produced by Schools of Design. Some photographic crystals of common snow were exhibited to the company by the Duke of Argyll, in support of his statement that the author of nature regarded ornamentation in the most minute as well as mightiest of his works, and of the religious duty of Christians to promote a taste for beauty amongst the humblest of their brethren. The children having sung, at the bidding of the Vicar, a "St. Martin's cheer," were left to regale themselves with buns, while the visitors repaired, in another apartment, to breakfast. Other speeches were there made by Mr. Cardwell, Lord Goderich, Lord Haddo, and other gentlemen: the first of whom, on the part of the Board of Trade, congratulated the parish on the example which it had set, and undertook that the department over which he presided should cordially render assistance to such enterprises. The conduct of the Vicar received, in particular, the due acknowledgment of the meeting, which separated at about four o'clock.

EMBARKATION OF TROOPS IN THE "HIMALAYA" STEAM-SHIP.

(From our own Correspondent.)

THE great interest excited by this noble ship, with 1500 souls on board, induces me to send you the accompanying Sketch.

Owing to a want of water we were obliged to postpone our sailing from Southampton till Saturday morning last. Our voyage thence to Plymouth occupied only nine hours and a half, being a distance of one hundred and forty miles. The day was delightful, and as we had light head winds and smooth water, nothing occurred to check the enthusiasm of our gallant band of 111 Engineers and 210 Riflemen. Indeed, the cheers of so many of our countrymen at Southampton had scarcely died away before the military and artificers employed in fortifying

Hurst Castle cheered us onward; and, as we steamed up to our anchorage in Plymouth Sound, a number of boats put off to welcome the *Himalaya* and her warrior freight to this western port.

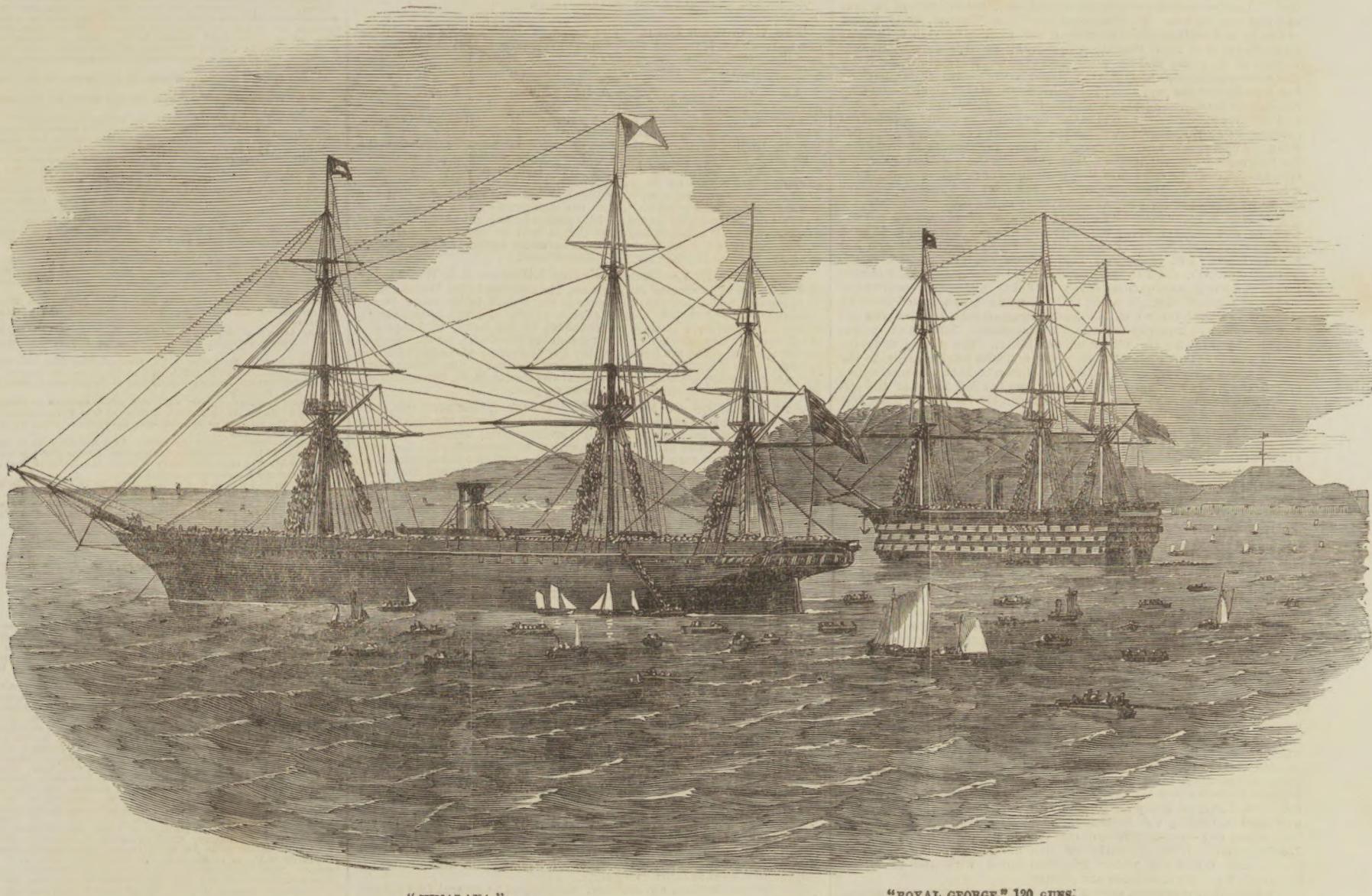
On Sunday forenoon we were visited by Sir Harry Smith, Commander-in-Chief of the district, and Colonel of the Rifle Brigade, who attended morning service on board, and an impressive sermon delivered by the chaplain of the port; after which the gallant General addressed the soldiers in an energetic strain. He was warmly cheered by the soldiers, some of whom had been with him in Kaffirland.

After midday, the public were admitted to see, as an advertisement here announced, the largest steamer in the world, and between a flotilla of row-boats and repeated voyages, to and from the shore, of steam-boats, several thousand persons were admitted to see this splendid ship, through the courtesy of Captain Kellock. Admiral Parker, Admiral Omaney, Lady Mount Edgecombe, Lady Smith, Captains Kingcombe, Eyles, and Low, of the Royal Navy, and the military officers in garrison,

with many of the gentry of Plymouth and surrounding country, were amongst our visitors on Monday. The embarkation of the 93rd Regiment was effected in a most satisfactory manner, in steamers from the Victualling Yard, without the slightest accident; and before sunset, on the 27th, a considerable amount of regularity and comfort was established amongst our fifteen hundred souls.

At about half-past four in the afternoon, the *Royal George*, 120-gun ship, steamed past the *Himalaya*, to anchor for the night in the Sound, previous to joining the Baltic fleet at Spithead. She manned her rigging, and gave three hearty cheers for the outward-bound troops, who returned her compliment with interest; and many remarked the destinations of the respective ships as likely to be at opposite extremities of the Russian empire.

On Tuesday morning the *Himalaya* left the Sound direct for Malta, at the rate of fifteen miles an hour. She is expected to be in Valetta-harbour by Tuesday next.



THE "HIMALAYA" STEAM-SHIP IN PLYMOUTH SOUND, WITH TROOPS FOR THE WAR.

POSTSCRIPT.

THE RUSSO-GREEK DISTURBANCES.

The *Observateur d'Athènes* of the 17th February, contains an article on the subject of the disturbances on the Turkish frontiers, and the consequent excitement in the kingdom of Greece. The Greek Government sees with sorrow the great agitation which prevails in the capital; but is of opinion that the police authorities ought to have been better acquainted with the state of public feeling. If they had displayed proper vigilance everything reprehensible might have been avoided. The Greek newspaper does not consider it advisable to state what has occurred or is occurring in the capital; but it states that the Prefect of Police has been dismissed, the Deputy-Commander of the city sent to the Provost for a week, and the Chief of the Military Bands imprisoned. It is further remarked that the punishment inflicted on these public servants, "who have never failed in the discharge of their duties," may appear severe, but the Greek Government is anxious to remove even the most trifling ground for complaint. The Government has also taken all possible measures to prevent any invasion of the Turkish territory; the national frontier guard has been strengthened, and Government officials, distinguished for ability and wise patriotism, sent to Acarnania and Phthiotide. The official organ here takes an opportunity of remarking that the frontiers of Greece are such, that its limited military power is insufficient completely to prevent evasion on the part of its own subjects, or to repress the invasions of brigands without the co-operation of the Turkish Government, whose will and orders are certainly misunderstood by the subaltern employés, "who seem intentionally to have brought about the present state of things." The people are conjured to be prudent, "as illegal and useless demonstrations" can only serve to embroil Greece with its neighbour.

THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON'S SPEECH.

The message of the Emperor to the Legislative Assemblies, delivered on Thursday, in Paris, is of a decided and satisfactory character. The Emperor speaks of war as inevitable; but he announces the good understanding existing between the Four Powers, and declares that their alliance will render the success of the Powers certain, and the war short. The message further congratulates the country on the patience and tranquillity with which it has supported the distress caused by the high price of corn; and expresses a hope that the crisis is now over, as there is every prospect of a good harvest next season. The departure of Prince Napoleon is announced; and the Emperor closes his speech by stating that France must triumph when she draws the sword in defence of religion and civilisation.

THE PRINCIPALITIES.

Accounts from the theatre of war in the Danubian provinces to the 19th ult., state that the snow rendered the roads impassable. Neither of the armies had changed their positions, although there had been several skirmishes at the advanced posts. The Redifs of Albania were quitting their cantonments at Widdin to return home.

AMERICA.

By the Pacific steamer, which arrived at Liverpool on Thursday, we have news from New York to the 18th ult. The political intelligence is not of much importance. The Senate was mainly occupied with the Nebraska Bill. The trade of the country was in a good condition. Money was plentiful, and could be obtained at very moderate rates.

THE *Giornale di Roma* of the 21st ult., states that on the preceding day the Pope unexpectedly visited the gas-works, and, after inspecting them minutely, honoured the director, Mr. Shepherd, with a gold medal, besides leaving proofs of his munificence with the men.

COUNTRY NEWS.

LOUTH ELECTION.—After a formidable contest, Mr. Fortescue has been re-elected as representative for Louth, by a majority of 151, in a constituency of about 2,000; but the entire number of electors who recorded their votes was 1,700. Many of the Conservatives voted for Fortescue; but there were several who either held back or gave their interest to Mr. Cantwell. The Leaguers threaten a petition, on the usual grounds put forward in such cases.

THE IRISH REFORM-BILL.—The Irish Reform-bill will not vary very materially from that introduced by Lord John Russell for England. There will be, however, some difference arising from the different circumstances of the two countries. It is not, we understand, intended to alter the Irish county franchise, which has been so lately settled. Sixteen boroughs will be disfranchised by the bill. They will be allotted to the minorities in boroughs and counties on the English plan, but the principle of population will not be so rigidly adhered to as in the English bill. In England a just proportion will generally be found to obtain between the population of a county, and its wealth and constituency. But this is not always the case in Ireland, where population will sometimes be found in inverse ratio to both. It is intended, therefore, to take all the three elements into consideration in dealing with the Irish counties. In boroughs the franchise will be lowered from eight to six pounds, as in the English bill.

REPORTS OF THE INSPECTORS OF FACTORIES.—The reports of the inspectors of factories for the half-year ending the 31st October have been given in a Parliamentary Blue-book. In alluding to the "strikes," Mr. Horner states that it is no exaggerated estimate to calculate the number of workpeople as out of employ in November, on strike, at 50,000, and the average loss of wages at £26,000 weekly. Mr. Horner is of opinion that a feeling of distrust and alienation between the employer and the employed, it is much to be feared, will last long after the re-opening of the mills, whether that be brought about by mutual concession by the stronger party prevailing. In their joint reports the inspectors refer to the act of last session, restricting the hours of labour of children as having given general satisfaction both to the employed and the employers, excepting some of the latter, whose unusually long hours for work have been contracted by it. The new factories were 255; additions to 74; and factories unoccupied numbered 62. The total power in the year of steam and water was 6567 horse-power, which, estimating on an average four persons to each horse-power, is equivalent to an increase of 26,268 persons employed.

FUNERAL OF MR. JOHN MARTIN.—The remains of this distinguished painter were interred on Friday (last week), at the Kirk Braddan Cemetery, Douglas, Isle of Man. The funeral cortège, consisting of the hearse, mourning-coaches, with a number of private carriages, and many of the inhabitants on foot, left the house of Mr. Wilson, in Finch-road, at which the deceased had for some time resided, at eleven o'clock, and proceeded to the cemetery. The service having been read by the Vicar, the Rev. Wm. Drury, the remains were deposited in their final resting-place.

It is stated in the *Manx Sun*, that Mr. Martin had chosen the Isle of Man as his place of residence, during the summer and autumn months, for some years past; he was fond of the wild and picturesque scenery of the island; "but that, in the designs of Providence, this lonely and distant spot should have been chosen as the final resting-place of his honoured remains, is a melancholy privilege which the natives of Mona could never have anticipated: and hollowed, no doubt, in their estimation, will ever be the place of his sepulchre, where he will repose by the side of some of his departed relatives, in the cemetery on the hill, near the romantic churchyard of Kirk Braddan, one of the spots he admired so much, and loved to visit."

BRIGHTON INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS AND WORKHOUSE.—On Monday last the competition for this new building, to be erected near the race-course, was decided in favour of Mr. W. H. Collins, a young London architect. The style is Domestic Gothic, and the cost of the structure will be about £5000. At the same time was decided on the design of Mr. Carpenter, for a new workhouse, to be erected near the above site, at a cost of about £14,000.

THE launch of the *Ca-oire Chisholm*, the finest, though not quite the largest, vessel ever built in the Tyne, took place on Wednesday,

at the yard of the builders, Messrs. Coutts and Parkinson, Wellington-quay, about six miles below Newcastle. The new vessel is a passenger-ship, the property of W. S. Lindsay, and is intended for the Australian trade: she is expected to take out on her first voyage a number of female emigrants, accompanied by Mrs. Chisholm, after whom the vessel is named. Dimensions: 262 feet over all, 32 feet beam, and about 1600 tons burthen. She is a full-rigged ship, with auxiliary steam power and screw; her engines (80-horse power) are made by Hawthorne and Co., of Newcastle.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.—On Ash Wednesday, a fire broke out, at about one o'clock, p.m., on the premises of Mr. Page, of Croft Farm, near Littleton, Hants. The catastrophe was caused by the lighted wad of a gun, which had been fired off at some rooks, falling on the thatched roof of a barn, the whole roof of which, in ten minutes, was in flames; and the fire-engine, which was sent for to Winchester arrived too late to be of any service. All the out-buildings, and surrounding ricks were totally destroyed; and it is much to be regretted that none of the property was insured.

CONDAMNATION OF THE REFORM BILL.—A meeting of Messrs. Gibson and Bright's election committee was held at the League-rooms, Newall's-buildings, Manchester, on Monday evening, for the purpose of considering the provisions of the new Reform Bill. The principal speaker was Mr. Bright, M.P., who discussed the provisions of the bill at great length. He complained of the bill generally, showing an innate hostility to popular representation. The distribution of members was so arranged in the bill as to give power to the territorial interest. It would not give a representation in accordance with the opinions of the great bulk of the people; and he had no wish to see the measure pass into a law. Other gentlemen followed Mr. Bright, complaining of various parts of the bill; and it was arranged to have a general meeting of the committee, which consists of 1600, or 1800 persons, to consider the steps to be taken.

LOUIS NAPOLEON'S ROYAL FRIENDS.—On Sunday the Belgian Minister at Paris waited on the French Emperor, and gave him from his master the insignia of the Grand Cordon of the order of Leopold. On the same day the Dutch Envoy waited upon his Majesty with a letter from the King of Holland, offering the Emperor a carpet.

The Commander-in-Chief of the Expeditionary Force, Lord Raglan, with the Surveyor of the Navy, Sir Baldwin Walker, K.C.B., and Lord de Roos, returned to England, from their short visit to Paris, on Wednesday.

OWING to the additional number of horses required for officers about to proceed to Turkey, Government have been obliged to contract for more transports. The staff will consist of no less than fifty officers, and will take along with them seventy horses.

AID TO SOLDIERS' WIVES.—The committee for carrying out this benevolent design has been formed; they propose to raise subscriptions to assist those not allowed to embark with their husbands, but kept on the marine rolls of the dépôt, and those who have married soldiers without military license. On the present occasion only four women were allowed to embark for every 100 men, so that a great many have to be provided for by finding them employment, and, till that can be done, by temporary pecuniary assistance. The subscriptions are already liberally coming in. The proprietor of Drury-lane Theatre gives a free benefit at that establishment, under distinguished patronage, in aid of the fund, and has placed the theatre at the free use of a committee of lady patronesses for three days in April, for a Fancy Fair, in aid of the fund. A great many of the licensed victuallers have opened boxes in their establishments for the receipt of public subscriptions.

DR. CULLEN ON "THE POLKA."—The following extract from the Lenten pastoral of Archbishop Cullen was read at all the chapels in Dublin on Sunday last:—"Never engage in those improper dances imported from other countries, and retaining foreign names, such as polkas and waltzes, which are so repugnant to the notions of strict Christian morality, are condemned by many of the highest and most respectable members of society, and are at direct variance with that purity and modesty of the female character for which Ireland has been ever distinguished."

